the history of DARK RIDE

Orviz F. Jordan

A History of Park Ridge

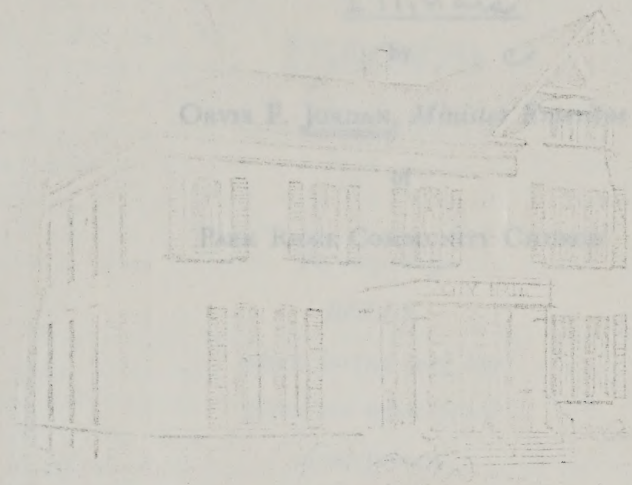
Illinois

by

Orvis F. Jordan, *Monitor Reporter*

of

Park Ridge Centennial Committee



PUBLISHER

George L. Scharringhausen, Jr., Park Ridge, Ill.

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Printed in U.S.A.

To My Wife
BELLE
whose loving care has
given me more years
of usefulness
and made this book possible

FOREWORD

SINCE 1914 various efforts have been made to write the history of Park Ridge. A large book of that year included histories of both Des Plaines and Park Ridge along with a great deal of advertising. Two churches put out publications, the women of Community church bringing out a book with a few thousand words and with a lot of interesting pictures in 1926. The Methodist church celebrated their centennial in 1956 with a booklet written by Dr. Penneywell, a retired minister, dealing mostly with the enterprises of Methodism. The first bank got out a booklet. The most valuable source of information, however, was a history of Cook County gotten out in 1884, by Andreas.

Your author came into possession of this book in a strange way. A quite feeble man came up my steps one evening supported by a cane, and holding under his arm a very large book. He said he lived in our trailer camp, and did not have room for it. He offered to loan it to me, since he had heard that I had taken on the job of writing a history of Park Ridge.

He said he would come back for the book. He has never come. When my work is done, I shall hope to induce the public library to act as custodian for this valuable book, with instructions to turn it over to this claimant if he reappears.

The task of securing information about Park Ridge has involved research both in the Chicago Historical Society and in the Newberry Library. About this time Robert Fisher of the Pantry authorized me to invite fifty Park Ridge people who had lived here for fifty years to be his guests for lunch. We had a tape recorder, and these old timers talked into the tape and some of them were interviewed later. From them I secured much material, though they did not always agree on what had happened.

There are a good many former residents of our city in Florida and other places who continue to read the Park Ridge Herald. These have supplied me with more material than I have been able to use.

The Park Ridge Herald generously offered to give space to a history of Park Ridge in a series of thousand word articles. Though I did not foresee it, this was a most fortunate arrangement. It has brought in corrections to our story that would not have been other-

wise available. To the very last before going to press with a book, I have continued to ask for corrections. I have not been able to accept quite all of these, but the citizens have been a valuable help. I am able to offer in this book a story that has been critically examined by a whole community. So April 2, 1959, the weekly instalments began, and they continued without interruption until fifty-seven chapters were in print.

What should be included in such a history? Some would seek to make it the personal stories of various leading citizens. Much of this kind of material has been included, but only a fraction of what is available. Some would make it a politcial history. This has been done, but politics has been made to take its own place. The story of the development of the art of living from the days of dirt floors to these days of television is our great interest. We all want to know how we got our schools, our churches and our library.

A city has a character, just as does a man. Park Ridge is very near to Niles and almost as old, but the soul of one is not like the soul of the other. How did the soul of our city grow, so that outside people are lured by it and seek to secure the advantage of fellowship with it for their children? This is the most difficult story of all, but I have made the try.

My purpose in putting this story into book form is not commercial. Should any profit accrue, it will go to the Park Ridge United Fund, and reach charitable enterprises. It would have been impossible for it to appear in book form had not our leading pharmacist, George Scharringhausen, Jr., agreed to become the publisher. He has never been a publisher before, but this versatile man who does so many different things well will succeed here also, I am sure.

Some of our citizens have kept clippings from the Park Ridge Herald in scrap books. Newspapers soon grow yellow and brittle, and thus it seemed likely that posterity would never have our story without a book. The children of Park Ridge have shown much interest in the story, and when I spoke once before the junior high youth, I found them very attentive. I have had college students try to borrow our scrap book to use the articles in college themes. Fearing to lose the history, I had to discontinue such loans.

I thank all of those who have given me wise counsel. Sometimes I was dealing with stories that still arouse much emotion in the community. I have found in Frank Cole, editor of the Park Ridge Herald, a wise counsellor in such situations.

The history of a city should be written every generation. As this is going through the press the story has some addenda. I am happy to feel that the next person who writes a history of Park Ridge will

not have to start from personal memory. I have named my source materials and so far as possible I shall give them to the Public Library, if they feel that they can house them.

My thanks are extended to the many citizens who have encouraged me, when I might have become slothful. This story has gone through my typewriter, but I like to think that the author is not a man but a community.

ORVIS F. JORDAN

Contents

Chapter 1

The Dawn of Park Ridge History

ONE WHO seeks to tell the story of Park Ridge, must first find the ridge, for it is all-important to the whole story. It is not so hard to find on a rainy day. One follows the water on the west side of town and finds that it goes into the Des Plaines River. On the east side of town the water goes to the Chicago River which is only a few miles away. Before man began tinkering with the flow of the Chicago River its waters found their way at last to the St. Lawrence and the Atlantic ocean. The waters that run into the Des Plaines River still find their way into the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico.

Up at the north end of Prospect street in Park Ridge is a spot said to be the highest in Cook county. At last a city grew on an elevation above the swamps that used to abound in this area.

The ridge was important because those who travelled by canoe in the long ago might wish to pass from the Great Lakes to the Mississippi water system. They would carry their canoes overland from one system to the other. There were several ways to do this. Up in Wisconsin there was a way to get from the Great Lakes into the Wisconsin River. In Indiana there was a portage from St. Joseph River to the Kankakee which empties into the Illinois River and from here into the Mississippi.

However the shortest portage was that between the Des Plaines and Chicago Rivers. The Chicago neighborhood known as Portage Park is reminiscent of this fact, and doubtless many times those carrying canoes passed over the ridge now known as Park Ridge.

The ridge has continued to have significance long after the days of the canoe. A generation ago an enterprising young real estate man, Fred I. Gillick, raised the slogan, "Out of the smoke zone, into the ozone." Through the years the ridge has been an important fact in the shaping of a city's life.

The historian always finds himself searching for a beginning place for his story, and that takes him at last out of the realm of history into that of archeology and anthropology. There cannot be any doubt that human feet occasionally trod the soil of Park Ridge a thousand years ago and more. But of these men and women there is no record. Before the day of the red Indian was that of the mound builder who has left the results of his activities all over the middle west, but particularly in Wisconsin and Illinois. The mound builders lived in the stone age and did not know how to work metals. They were evidently religious in their own way, for perhaps their mounds were centers for religious devotion. But the mound builders erected no mounds in Park Ridge, though they may have passed through here as they were pursued by their enemies.

As we begin to talk of the Indians we enter the realm of history. The French explorers have provided records of many of their discoveries, and from these records we know something of the various tribes which were sometimes federated into what we might call a nation. In general the Indians of the mid-west were divided on the matter of transportation. Some of these, like the Illinois tribe, never traveled on water in canoes. But others, like the Pottawotamies, made canoes and were very skillful in getting about in them. As one might guess, those that could use the canoes over-powered those that could not.

It is a bit difficult to imagine how these wild people stayed alive, for our winters are severe, and we have scarcely any caves to provide human shelter. One could imagine a family clad in buffalo skins wintering on the Des Plaines River protected by a buffalo skin tent. With bow and arrow the men killed animals, and he knew how to catch fish. In some stages of Indian culture the women raised gardens, for they were not always able to follow the men on their military expeditions or on their hunting trips.

The only thing we have left to remind us of the days of Indian occupation is the grave of an Indian chieftan who adopted the ways of civilization, and who farmed in our area. His grave may be found in the forest preserve on the west side of East River Road near Lawrence Avenue in the forest preserve. The grave is fenced in and properly marked. What might have happened to his progeny we do not know.

The story of the Indian wars is provided for us by early French explorers. The Illinois tribe was at home in what is now Chicagoland for a long time. At the dawn of recorded history, they were pressed by the Pottawotamies from the north. The Illinoisans kept moving down the rivers toward what is now Ottawa, but their enemies travelling by canoe over the waterways were able to cut them off. The Illinoisans took refuge on Starved Rock. Here they starved to death rather than surrender to their enemies, though a few fought their way to death. This battle established the dominance of the Pottawatomies in northern Illinois. The future Park Ridge had a more militant Indian than formerly.

Among the Indians another revolutionary change was now coming. They had learned to trade their valuable skins for the metal objects they greatly wanted, and among these were guns. When an Indian tribe secured guns and ammunition, it easily routed all its enemies, but at the same time it became a more formidable foe to the white man. Indians could now secure game more easily, and the first effect of guns was to increase the Indian population by increasing the food supply. However, the white man also had communicable diseases which were deadly to the Indians, who had no immunity to them. And the white man's fire-water proved to be a deadly influence. Hence the Indians were weakened rather than strengthened by their contact with the white man.

Thus for centuries some of the richest farm lands in the world were held by nomads. From these lands the Indians were forcibly ejected. Only in a few instances were the lands purchased by the United States government.

What has required thousands of years in other parts of the world has been compressed in our middle west to a few hundred years, all the

way from the stone age to the age of steel. Next we must study the hundred years when the French flag flew over this territory. This left something that we should be careful to preserve.

Chapter 2

Park Ridge Under the French Flag

THE FIRST white men to come into the Park Ridge area were French. This happened in 1673 when Joliet and Pere Marquette made their famous expedition from Mackinac Island to the mouth of the Arkansas River. On their way down they did their portage up in Wisconsin, entering the Mississippi from the Wisconsin River. But on their return they came up the Illinois River and used the Chicago portage which we have indicated was in the Park Ridge area. From here they went to a mission house up near Green Bay. By the rules of the time, sovereignty was claimed by the nation whose citizens did the exploring; so at least theoretically Park Ridge stayed under the French flag for nearly a hundred years, though nearly all the human beings in the area were Indians of various tribes.

Once more we are lured away from the locale of our story to account for the coming of the French. They founded Quebec in 1608, twelve years before the coming of the Pilgrims to Plymouth, Mass. The governor of the new city was Champlain. Behind this enterprise was a great interest shared by several European nations. They wanted to find a sea route to China, the source of much rich and expensive merchandise.

With Champlain was one of the most interesting Americans who ever lived. Jean Nicolet was given a commission to live among the Indians to study their language, and to learn from them anything that would help point the way to China. He became a peace-maker when the tribes went to war with each other. After many years in the wilderness he married a godchild of Champlain, and his descendants are still numbered among the prominent citizens of Canada.

It was an important fact of American history that the French got on with the Indians much better than did the British. The reasons for this are apparent. They learned to talk to the Indians in their own language. When war broke out between two tribes, they were mediators. The Indians were a proud people, and the French treated them with respect. But most important of all, the French exploration of North America was strongly motivated by religion. The Jesuits, in particular, established missions all over the area; and they have left documents of great importance to the historian, including "Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents."

After this digression, let us return to the explorers who first came into the Park Ridge area. Not far from Starved Rock a village of settlers was established at Kaskaskia, now Utica. After this initial trip a settle-

ment called Crevecoeur was established at Peoria. Lake Michigan was in those days called by the uncomplimentary name of the Stinking Water by the Indians. Around its shores French settlements sprang up, and in many of these may still be found the traces of the French influence. Down the Illinois River the names of cities, Joliet, Ottawa, LaSalle, and Peoria remind us that the French got things started here.

The personalities of the early explorers left a heritage for us all. The courage, the imagination, and the devotion of these men are a part of the American character.

This may be illustrated by the career of LaSalle. Though Joliet was the original explorer of the Lake Michigan country, Governor Frontenac selected a newcomer from France, LaSalle, to follow up on these initial journeys. LaSalle got the idea of a water passageway from Quebec to the mouth of the Mississippi. He began to build ships along the line, and managed to get them to Lake Michigan. Another ship was built in Peoria to go down the river system.

He and his companions found their way to the Gulf of Mexico and claimed the whole Mississippi valley to be in the domain of the king of France. On his return from the first voyage down the great river he used the portage at Chicago in 1681, dragging the canoes over the snow. This brought him to the Park Ridge area. For a second time white men had come here. But it is a long time yet before a white settlement was made.

LaSalle fell into disfavor with the new governor of Quebec, so he went to Paris to present his case to the king, and won his suit.

At this time he took a ship directly from France to the Gulf of Mexico and sought vainly for the mouth of the Mississippi. He landed in Texas and some one murdered him there. One must say that he did more than any other explorer to make the Middle West known to Europe. He travelled with a Father Hennepin, a Belgian priest, whose records of the journeys are called "mendacious" by Quaife in his book, "Lake Michigan," but are not without value.

It is beyond our purpose to chronicle the development of the Middle West in the days that followed, but the Chicago River, the river of the wild garlic, became a center of a good deal of activity. The priests established a mission here, and Indians lived on both the north and the south banks of the river. Travelers came through, often carrying merchandise; and so life went on in this area for nearly a hundred years.

This came to a violent end when the French and Indian War brought defeat to France and the whole North West country became a British possession. It was in 1763 that the French flag should have come down in Park Ridge, if there ever was one.

The French brought beauty, enterprise, imagination, and independence to our continent. After the French political power ended here, the French people often remained in the Middle West, as is indicated by our family names. Our faces often show the influence of French ancestry. It would be well if Americans recognized more completely their indebtedness to this gay and intrepid people.

When the British flag went up over Park Ridge, if it ever went up, it was not for long. It was but a little while from 1763 to 1776 when the Declaration of Independence was passed. In these thirteen years the British had to make a beginning in Canada, and there could hardly have been time for them to do very much about our area. They had won an empire, and then lost it again in the war of the American revolution. But life went on in Chicagoland much as it always had. It was in the decades soon to follow that changes began which would eventually bring millions of people to this strategic center.

Chapter 3

The Era of Indian Wars

GHASTLY stories of human atrocities are handed down in ancient documents which show how a promising settlement on Garlic River declined until only one family was left. For many years no white man made the portage at Park Ridge, for the hostile Indians made that impossible.

Small British garrisons were established as far west as Detroit and Mackinac at the close of the French and Indian war, but these inadequate forces had to meet the confederation of Indian tribes under Pontiac, one of the greatest leaders the Indians ever had. As the white settlers pushed westward, the Indians saw their hunting grounds being reduced in size, and hunting was their living. The Stone Age met the Iron Age on the prairies of the Middle West. It was destined that the Iron Age should triumph. The Indians had previously managed to trade their furs for guns and powder, but in time of war, this became impossible. They had to meet their enemies with arrows and spears which they pitted against cannon and grape-shot. The ultimate result of this struggle could be easily foretold.

But let us return to the days before this war, and focus our attention for a while on Chicagoland. A French Canadian by the name of Ouilmette settled on Chicago River in 1790 with his Indian wife, who bore him a daughter named Eulalie. Two Canadian traders also settled near. The child had an Indian heritage as well as the French one. The Federal Writers' Project recounts an Indian story that Eulalie might have heard in her childhood:

"Kitchemondo made the world and all things in it. He peopled it with beings who looked like men, but who were perverse, ungrateful, and wicked and never raised their eyes from the ground to thank Him for anything. At last the Great Spirit plunged the world into a huge lake and drowned them. He then withdrew the world from the water and made a single man, very handsome, but also very sad and lonesome. Then to allay his loneliness, Kitchemondo took pity on the man and sent him a sister. One night the young man had a dream. When he awoke, he said to his sister, 'Five young men will come to your lodge door tonight to visit you. You must not talk to the first four. But with the fifth you may speak and laugh.' She acted accordingly; the first to call was Usana (tobacco); being repulsed, he fell down and died. The second was Waupako (pumpkin); the third, Eshkossinin (melon); the fourth, Kokees (bean). But when Tamin (maize) presented himself, she received him kindly. They were immediately married, and from this

union, the Indians came. Tamin buried the four unsuccessful suitors, and from their graves grew tobacco, melons, pumpkins, beans."

It was in the year 1803 that Fort Dearborn was built by Captain Whistler, and the flag of the United States was raised. This officer was paid forty dollars a month, and he had fifteen children.

Across the river from the fort was the home of Kinzie, which he had bought from Sable, an earlier settler. Kinzie made silver ornaments which he used to trade with the Indians. He sometimes sold them whiskey, which put him into conflict with Captain Whistler. When people accused him of cheating the Indians, he replied that he had all his life tried to cheat them, but he was never able! He got himself made justice of the peace, and performed weddings. As there was no other way to get married, even Whistler's daughter came to him to be married. Although southern Illinois had a lot of new settlers, there was none here for a decade for fear of the Indians. In 1812, the second war with Britain broke out, and the British had the best of it for a while. It is likely that a British flag could have been raised in Park Ridge at this period.

The Indians saw in this war of the white men their opportunity. The Pottawatomies and Winnebagos had been increasing in number for some time. They had shared the great battle at Tippecanoe near Lafayette. The white settlers came into the fort, and were there when an order came to Captain Heald to evacuate the fort. Kinzie advised him not to do so, but to an army man orders are orders. Many took to boats while Captain Heald gave his supplies to the Indians, hoping to placate them. On August 15, they abandoned the fort, only to be attacked by the Indians, and many of them were killed. The Kinzies and the Healds returned to the Kinzie house until it was invaded by Indians. At that time Billy Caldwell, a half breed, talked the Indians out of acts of violence, and the two families were able to make their escape to Detroit. We honor the half-breed Indian by naming for him a golf course over near Sauganash.

No white person was left in Chicago now until the end of the war in 1814, except Ouilmette, who lived with an Indian wife. Now a suburb is named for him, though the name is misspelled, Wilmette.

At the close of the war many came from Virginia down the Ohio river, and settled in southern Illinois. For a while our state was in Northwest Territory, and for a while it was a part of Virginia. The northern boundary of the state became a matter of dispute. It was proposed that the northern boundary be on the latitude of the southern tip of Lake Michigan. Had this plan prevailed, Park Ridge would have been a part of Wisconsin. But at last the boundary was established where it may now be found. Illinois became a state in 1818 with 45,000 citizens all told, no more than in our Maine township in 1959.

Not much happened in Chicago for ten years. There was talk of a canal to unite the two waterways. It was eventually dug, but not right away. Settlers began to filter in. The lone-wolf trappers were followed by the poor squatters; and these, by farmers with stock and money. At last came a few educated young men. They came in spite of a bad government report on this area, "climate inhospitable, soil sterile, scenery

monotonous and uninviting." However Henry Rowe, who visited the settlement in 1820, saw the future in a different light: "a great thoroughfare for strangers, merchants and travellers." He reported a community of a dozen huts and some sixty souls.

As we have seen, the Jesuit fathers had been in the area for a century and a half, but it was not until 1825 that the first Protestant worship service was held by Rev. Isaac McCoy, a Presbyterian minister. In the meantime the first school had been started in Kinzie's buildings. It was about this time that the Erie Canal was opened in New York State and the road to Chicago became an easier one.

But the Pottawotamies still camped on the Des Plaines River, and some of them hunted and farmed in the area of Park Ridge, no doubt. Not until the Indians could be moved on, would settlers come in to start this community. This happened in 1835. There are no abstracts of title that go farther back than this.

Chapter 4

America Discovers Chicagoland

THE DECADE following 1830 is an amazing one in American history. We must confine our attention to what happened in Chicagoland, but what happened here was greatly affected by outside factors.

Already we have noted that population in southern Illinois was rapidly increasing, but no one wanted to come to Chicago after the story of the Fort Dearborn massacre. Indians of several tribes occupied the area. In 1832 the Black Hawk war started with a really great Indian heading the redskins. He brought his braves over from Iowa, and was going to Lake Winnebago, when he was attacked by the whites. He sent the white flag of truce to his enemies, but it was disregarded. It is interesting to remember that Abraham Lincoln's only military experience was in this war. The Pottawatomies joined in the fray, but by this time the whites of Illinois were too numerous for them. In 1833, a treaty was signed by the Indians that for certain considerations they would go to the other side of the Mississippi river. The considerations included cash, whiskey, and merchandise.

The Indians would not leave Chicagoland until they had received the money and merchandise that was promised. This low reputation of the white man's honesty was not altogether undeserved. In 1835, five thousand Indians came into Chicago to receive their last payment from the government. On the day that the debt was paid in full, the red men staged a dance, not a war-dance, but something one might describe as a dance of mourning. They contorted their bodies in unbelievable ways, rode their horses about and made the wildest demonstration that was ever seen on the streets of Chicagoland. When the demonstration was over, the Indians went away never to return. Some half breeds remained, and a few men with Indian wives, but generally speaking the Indian has left little to mark his occupation of these lands. Some day we may try to recover something from this history that is not yet available.

With the Indians gone, people began to pour into this area, largely from the East. The determining factors were new transportation facilities. The Erie Canal had been opened between Albany and Buffalo in 1825. The steamboat was plying waters in the East. It was now possible to come from New York to Chicago by water. That was a different story from the trek overland by the Mormons in this period. Stage coaches were beginning to make their way from southern Illinois, though the travel from this direction was not a very important factor. It was a number of years before there was rail connection with the East, but talk

of it was in the air. In 1827 Congress authorized a canal to connect the two great waterways, and later voted $25,000 to dig it.

Chicago had been incorporated August 5, 1833, when it had about 250 citizens, certainly not over a thousand. At this time Michigan City had 3,000, and it is claimed that Waukegan was bigger than Chicago. The digging of the canal used 2,000 workers eventually, and a housing shortage developed that was very acute. It was said that many men slept on the floor. The canal project included the straightening of the river at its mouth. This made a good harbor on the river inside the city and boats began to arrive by the scores. The first steamboat arrived in 1832.

Now an era of real estate speculation set in that made fortunes for some in a few years. James Kinzie bought a piece of land for $418 that he sold for over a million fifty years later.

Yet the wilderness was not far away. Wolves were to be feared, and a bear was killed in Chicago in 1833. The food supply became a pressing question. The edible animals were becoming scarcer as the population became greater. Food brought in by the boats was expensive. Flour was twenty dollars a barrel. In the midst of this the nation itself went into one of its periodic economic depressions. Yet the population of Chicago grew in a most amazing way. In 1837 there were eight thousand people in Chicago, and men were prediciting that the city might some time have a population of 50,000!

This new population came largely from New York and New England. That meant that the new city, so far as it had solid citizens, was of the Puritan stock. It is popular now to malign Puritans. They could be narrow sometimes back in New England. They put a man in jail at Plymouth once for observing Christmas. But these people had already founded Harvard and Yale and Brown. They loved books and music. The first newspaper was founded by John Calhoun and purchased in 1835 by Long John Wentworth, who came from Vermont, and was a Dartmouth man. This paper was called *The Chicago Democrat.*

So eventually northern Illinois was to be filled by a different kind of American from those in southern Illinois. That originated the tensions that are still found in the state. Chicagoans talk of those "downstate," which is resented by the sons of the Cavaliers of Virginia.

Like every pioneer community in all history, this one drew into its life the lawless adventurers from everywhere. The few preachers in the city denounced its lawlessness and dissipation. As in every new community, the lawless elements tried to get control of politics and the more lucrative parts of the city's business. It took time for the city to establish the morality without which no community can long prosper.

Business grew, and one ancient account says: "There are now upward of fifty business houses, four large forwarding houses, eight taverns, two printing offices, one steam saw mill, one brewery, and twenty-five mechanic shops of all kinds." There was room for a wide variety of skills. By the middle of the decade the cultural activities had made a beginning. We read of the Chicago Harmonic Society giving a concert in the Presbyterian church. At this time *The Chicago Democrat* an-

nounced that Mr. Bowers, Professeur de Tours Amusants, would give an exhibition in the home of D. Graves; the admission, fifty cents. Thus as the Indians departed and the wild animals were being exterminated, the activities of a civilized community were getting started.

The basic demand for food pressed ever harder as the city made its miracle growth of the first decade, so the settlers who knew something about farming began looking for good farm land. It has been noted that the city itself was swampy and without artificial drainage; therefore unsuited to farming. It is to be understood, therefore, why some of the would-be farmers would turn northwestward where the land was not so sandy as along the shore. The eye of the experienced farmer would see that northwest along the banks of the Des Plaines River was a good place to start, in spite of the difficulty of getting food to market thirteen miles away when there were no roads. It was just that, that gave the Park Ridge farmers their chance back in the thirties.

Chapter 5

Pioneers Seek a Fertile Spot

THE POPULATION pressure in Chicago and the shortage of food and shelter led the adventurous pioneers to fan out in Chicagoland, seeking places to settle. Even before the Indians had left, some had already settled in what was to be some day Maine Township. The mile wide strip of oak and walnut trees along Des Plaines River afforded wood with which to build log cabins. The gentle slopes of the ridge provided some fields with natural drainage which would not be swampy in the crop season. Simple facts like these account for the early settlement of Maine township.

One day a few years ago, a crippled man came to my house with a big book under his arm the size of the old-time family Bible. He knew of my interest in Park Ridge and he offered to loan the book to me, and he would come back for it. He has never come back, but I shall continue to retain the book while I await his coming.

The book is "A History of Cook County" by A. T. Andreas. It was published by the author in 1884, and copyrighted. By this time the copyright has expired and we feel free to reprint certain sections of the book which are pertinent to our subject. It fills a need that anyone who writes the history of Park Ridge will experience. A copy is available in Chicago Historical Society. Naturally the first decade of settlement in this township the settlers were too busy to make any records. What we know of that decade was written from the memory of old settlers at a much later time. These later records do not agree in all details but pieced together will provide a reasonably accurate picture of the life of the pioneers.

Andreas says on page 490 of his history: "The first settlement in this township was made in 1832, by Captain Wright, who erected a house near the north line of section 22. Captain Wright had been a commissioned officer in the Vermont militia, and had fought at the battle of Plattsburg on Lake Champlain in 1812. The tract on which he located in Maine Township is the well-known Milatovitch farm. In 1833 Mr. Brooks, Mr. Sherman and his sons, Mr. Edick and Mr. Besse came into the township, the latter settling on the present Jefferson farm in section 27. In 1834 Eben Count took up a claim on the southwest quarter of section 34, and finally settled on section 5, on the Edick place, Mr. Edick going back to Utica, N. Y. Harry Phillips was one of the early settlers, but at first did not remain long. He sold his claim to Peter Guthrie, and went back to Vermont. Afterward he returned to Maine township, bought old Mr. Conant's farm, and after some years sold out and went to Denby where he died. Thomas Walton settled on section 8,

but sold his claim in 1836 to Samuel Johnson, and took up a new claim west of his first one.

"Captain Mancel Talcott settled on the northeast quarter of section 34. On the first of July, this year, S. Rand framed and raised Mr. Talcott's house, Mr. Talcott covering it himself. This house still stands and is occupied by John Miller. Mancel Talcott, Jr., settled on section 26. According to some authorities he built the first house in Park Ridge, but according to others the first house was built there by Warner & Stevens, after laying out the Rand Road. John Dougherty settled on the north half of section 28. Daniel Goodenough built a small log house near the corner of sections 16, 17, 20 and 21. This small house stood near the Des Plaines River where the railroad now crosses it, and remains of it may still be seen. Besides the above named, there came into the township in 1834 the following: Mr. Hopson, Mr. Foot, J. W. Walton, A. H. Conant, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Kincade, Mr. Allison and Dr. Austin, and along the west bank of the river, north of Des Plaines, Mr. Bradwell, Mr. Clay, Mr. Kennicott and his two sons, Hiram and Levi. Also Mr. Chivel, Mr. Parsons and Mr. Salisbury. In 1835 Socrates Rand settled on the southwest quarter of section 8. This is now the house of I. N. W. Sherman. Peter and John Guthrie settled on the southwest quarter of section 27 the same year. Captain Hugunin, Mr. Long and Judge Hoard also settled here this year. In 1836 John Boyd settled at what is now Canfield (Edison Park); Hiram Jefferson bought John Dougherty's property; Curtis Clark, known as Deacon Clark, settled on the southeast quarter of section 34; and Phineas Sherman sold his claim to Dr. Silas Meachem, of Park Ridge.

"In 1837 Jairus Warner, Thomas Stephen, George F. Foster and Thomas P. Robb settled near Park Ridge, James Grannis settled on the south half of section 14, and John Brown sold his claim on the southeast quarter of that section to Christopher Kueger, whose family has lived there ever since. In 1838, Evan Jones settled east of the river near Rand's bridge, Luther Ballert settled either on section 15 or 22, and Captain Sabin on either section 10 or 11. In 1839 John Ward settled on the southeast quarter of section 12; in 1840 John Peacock, Joseph Stott and Mr. Sherman settled on sections 10 and 11." These settlers seem to have come mostly from New York and New England. However almost equally early came German settlers who were to become an important element in the settlement of the township. Of these we shall speak in another chapter.

A true history of this decade would include a lot of information about the way of life of these pioneers. It is hard for a person in 1961 to imagine life without sewing machines, washing machines, dishwashers and food marts where all sort of prepared food is available. The women in these pioneer settlements were apt to have short lives. They had large families for whom they had to sew and knit, for no children's clothing stores were accessible or even in existence. One can see them drying corn from the roasting ears to eat in the winter. There were no Mason Jars as yet for canning, but the housewife helped hole up vegetables and apples to withstand the winter freeze. Some of these pioneer women

may have had dirt floors. Their evenings were spent knitting stockings for the family.

The man had only the simplest tools for his farming. He walked behind his plow instead of riding as a later generation did. He had no harvesting machinery for his small grain. He shocked his corn so he might feed the fodder to his cow in the winter and also so that he might have some farm work to do in the winter shucking the corn. The corn he took to a mill to be ground on shares, when a mill was finally established. He raised buckwheat, which was a quick crop that could be raised on land where an earlier crop had drowned out in the spring rains. There was not much time in such a life program for recreation and social life. But the neighbors had to help in raising houses and barns and the women had to cook for them. Thus the social life of the pioneers began. They nursed each other's sick, and when a man got sick at seeding time, they would put in his crop for him. They needed each other, and thus a neighborhood began to become a true community.

Chapter 6

The First Decade Has Its Problems

WITHIN ten years of the coming of the first settler, several German families appear on the list of the landowners. Jacob Heinz came in 1843; George Kotz and Mr. Schoenock, in 1846; and Conrad Popp, in 1847. The pressure of militarism in Germany led to the big increase of German immigrants coming to America. Eventually the German section of Monroe precinct grew considerably, and contributed to the success of the new community.

The reader will want to know the sources from which this information is secured. We can find no written record between 1884 and an advertising booklet issued in 1951 for Park Ridge, Des Plaines and Mt. prospect. Mrs. Thomas Trimm wrote a good deal of the history found in the first book, though probably not all, for there are contradictory statements in this story. Mrs. Trimm was the grandmother of Irving and John Gillick of our generation. In her account of Park Ridge origins, she says: "About 1836, Mr. Curtis Clark, brother-in-law of Dr. Meachem, who was justice of the peace, became director of funeral services, and organized the first church of Park Ridge, the Congregational church. The same year Joseph Mitchell, of Bath, Maine, located a claim on the north edge. It was after his home state of Maine that the present township of Maine derived its name. . . . The post office was established in 1856. Robert W. Meachem was the first postmaster. A. B. Sherwin succeeded him, followed by C. E. Stebbings in 1872. After these came Rudolph Brunst, Charles Kobow, Mr. and Mrs. Whitlock, W. S. Chittenden, and the present incumbent Miss Margaret McClements."

In 1926, the Women's Circle of Community Church, wrote a history of Park Ridge and had it printed by the Edison Press. At that time Elizabeth Dinse was president of the Circle, and Helen Tower was chairman of the editorial committee. It is known that Mary Perkins, who has lived her whole life here, made very valuable contributions to the early history. In this booklet there is the following account of the early years: "About 1845 Mancel Talcott, Jr., bought 160 acres of land from the government and built a house, a story and a half cottage, on the corner now occupied by the Park Ridge State Bank. The original house is embodied as part of the structure occupied by Mrs. Wannenwetsch, which originally stood on the corner, but has been moved back on the lot. The original cottage is built around so that none of it is visible. Mrs. Wannenwetsch was born in Park Ridge, and has lived here most of her life.

"The first brick house was built by George W. Penny on the site of the frame house built by Warner and Stevens, and occupied by Ellen Haskins. This house was occupied many years by Mr. Penny as a home.

Afterward it was sold and passed through many hands. . . . This house burned, however, and the present structure was erected by Capt. W. P. Black, but occupied by A. B. Becken, who made his home here for some time. At his death the property was sold to the Park Ridge Masonic Building corporation.

"Mr. and Mrs. Haskins came to Park Ridge from Vermont in 1843. Mrs. Ellen Haskin was married in 1856 to A. J. Whitcomb. They went for their wedding journey to Woodstock, Illinois, on the first passenger train to run that far on the Wisconsin division of the Northwestern railroad. It was then as far as the train went. Mr. Whitcomb was a builder, and most of the homes of forty years ago were of his building."

All of this indicated that for the first decade the area later known as Maine Township was just a farming district. In those days one could get some of the finest Illinois farm land from the government for $1.25 an acre. It is not likely that the settlers here paid more. The story of the increase of land values would be an interesting one, but would take us too far afield. We may comment that before us is a letter of Fred I. Gillick, the community's only real estate operator, offering a cottage for rent for ten dollars a month and later coming down to eight dollars. The cottage had bath tub and electric light, so it was "modern." This was in 1901.

The reader must fill in with his imagination the solution of the many problems of these pioneers. Where did they get flour, for there was no mill up this way? Where did they secure cloth to make the baby a dress? Where did they find yarn with which the stockings of the family were knitted? Or were some of these pioneer women skilled enough to take the wool from the sheep's back and take this wool through all the processes until it was human clothing? Some pioneer women in Illinois had all of these skills.

We may surmise that at first the pioneer man rode a horse across the prairies of Cook County to the mouth of the Chicago River where a few stores had the goods that were now coming in from the East by boat. But if this were so, we have no record of it.

The area found the Des Plaines River useful, but it presented a problem for transportation. Sometimes it was too high to ford. Andreas notes, "The first bridge across the Des Plaines was built by Dr. Austin, at his place; the second, at Captain Talcott's; in a few years quite a number of bridges were built, but, as was natural, they were but temporary affairs."

Riding across a trackless prairie could not last long, so there was a demand for a road. This is Andreas' account of road-building: "The first road was in 1835 or 1836, running from Sand Ridge to Elk Grove, and crossing the river at Captain Talcott's. The next was the river road from Brush Hill, past Mr. Coval's on Salt Creek, and up the west bank of the river to where the Milwaukee Road crosses it. The third was the Brooks Road from Sand Ridge to Elk Grove, crossing the river at Brooks place. The fourth was the Rand Road (named for Socrates Rand) from Sand Ridge to the mouth of Flint Creek, at Fox River, crossing the Des Plaines River at Rand's place.

"When the Rand Road was laid out, there was considerable opposition to its being opened through what is now Norwood Park, and it was quite difficult to induce parties to settle in what are now eligible locations, and valuable farms."

The spirit of the pioneers as related by Andreas we cheerfully hand on to this generation. "When the Germans built their little church, still standing on the prairie, Socrates Rand contributed timber toward its construction, and the neighbors generally toward its erection. All responded with alacrity to the call to raise a house, or a bridge, or to repair impassable roads. Differences were generally adjusted without recourse to the law."

So by the end of the first decade there was a road running into Milwaukee Avenue and on to Chicago, making the junction at Dutchman's Corner, now known as Niles. Niles was then far more important than Park Ridge. It had a store as early as 1836 and a post office. A hotel was built in 1837 and a blacksmith came in 1840. Soon afterwards a steam saw mill was erected. The first school was opened there by a Scotchman called Ballantine in 1838. The second was opened by Miss Phillips who was paid two dollars per term per pupil.

Chapter 7

The Pennoyer Community

AT LEAST one organization near Park Ridge has had a continuous life leading all the way back to the early pioneers. That is the Pennoyer school, a grade school that operated for many years at the corner of Higgins and Canfield, serving farm children south of that for a district. The other evening its "alumni" association had its eighteenth meeting in the beautiful new school building that has been erected at the corner of Cumberland and Foster. Some Park Ridge people belong to this "alumni" organization, including Miss Mary Perkins, Mrs. Leslie Cole, and Ed Perkins. Their late brother, Lewis Perkins, attended this school as did the Madsen family. At this meeting I met Mr. and Mrs. Albert B. Mojounier who live at 5357 N. East River Road. These belong to the family of Chief Robinson, and they are alumni of the Pennoyer.

The Pennoyer alumni firmly believe that their school was founded in 1841, only a few years after the first house was erected here. One wonders if the school was public or private at first. It was at this very time that Horace Mann was carrying on his great agitation for the improvement of the public school in Massachusetts. Only a few years earlier we find the schools of Dutchman's Corner were private enterprises.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Mojounier is now with the armed forces in Japan, but when in high school he did research in the early history of this area and turned up a thesis that had wide recognition. We hope to have access at an early date to this thesis.

At the Pennoyer "alumni" meeting on April 10, 1959, the principal had arranged an exhibit of historical materials that was noteworthy. One could find very old public school textbooks. But more interesting were some books of our generation. The list includes "Historic Chicago Sites" by Jensen; "Machines of Plenty" by Holbrook, which tells the story of the development of agricultural tools from pioneer times; and "Illinois Grows Up" by Frances Blatchford.

Among the topics of conversation at the social hour was the reported vandalism at the grave of Alexander Robinson, Indian chieftain, who is buried in the forest preserve just off East River Road near Lawrence Avenue. It was agreed that "something ought to be done about it" but no specific plan emerged.

From some of the old settlers and from the books on display, we learned something more about Chief Alexander Robinson, who had an Indian name that is unpronouncable. He was a half breed Indian who was married to a woman of mixed blood. His sympathies were on the Indian side, but he refused to enter the war that led to the Fort Dear-

born massacre. He was convinced that the white race had become strong enough in the area that the red men could not hope to win.

When the war was over and the Indians were to receive their last installment of money in 1835, the old-timers at Pennoyer claim that the big pay-off was near the Robinson farm. The old chieftain settled down to til the soil until his death April 22, 1872, when it is claimed that he had reached the age of 110 years. He had good relations with his white neighbors, and his desendants are held in esteem.

From the books on display at Pennoyer school, one can learn something more about the life of the pioneer man. He had to have neighbors to build a log house, and it was a lot easier if he was near the timber that was to go into the house. The traveler who has seen the Lincoln Cabin at Hodgensville, Kentucky, knows what one of those houses looks like. The end of the logs were notched and locked into each other. Cracks between the logs were filled with clay. At first there was a dirt floor which must have been a bit trying to the tidy young women from New England. Often there was a loft, and a ladder, and perhaps the older children slept there. It was not a very big chore to make a comfortable bed with "springs" woven from tree bark, and on this a straw "tick." The cooking would be done at first at the fireplace, which had been built at one end out of stones. In this fireplace hung the dinner pot and there might be a place to bake bread.

The young farmer soon felt the need of a way to keep his animals from straying, so he built a pen for them out of rails, and after a while a considerable pasture lot might be thus enclosed. He walked behind his plow made of wood with a steel "share". He cut his wheat with a "cradle" which laid the grain into place where it could easily be tied into bundles. Later he had to beat this grain with a flail. He had to bring in his wood for winter, and there would be the butchering and salting of meat in the winter time. This pioneer man was on no thirty-five hour week. It took all that was in him to win survival for himself and his family.

The matter of a water supply was also a matter of concern. Even though he lived near the river the pioneer found that even unpolluted river water was not always safe. So he took a spade and dug a well. Often surface water contaminated this, and sometimes the well went dry. The well had to have a wall to hold back the dirt, and at first this was done with stones.

For a little while he could get a good deal of his meat by hunting deer and buffalo as well as rabbits. But as numerous neighbors came in, this could not be depended on for a meat supply. He had to raise his own meat animals. He might dry the meat or salt it, but in the early days he had no ice-house to keep his food safe in hot weather. We will not say that he had to make a garden, for likely this fell to the lot of the woman, and in those days there was a sharp delimitation of "woman's work" and "man's work." A boy did not get very big until he resented being asked to do "woman's work."

The ruthless metropolis is making an end of the old Pennoyer community and is creating a new one. The toll roads have destroyed many of the farms and will destroy more. A new village has sprung up

between Higgins and Lawrence Avenues, and this housing is erected on the old farms. The owners of this land who stayed on have been able to retire very comfortably.

So the old Pennoyer community is gone, but its spirit lives on because it has kept alive its history and remembers its great personalities. That is something highly to be desired. Whatever in the future may happen to the government of this area, life will be richer if history is kept alive. What is being done in the Pennoyer school district for this purpose may well be done in other parts of Maine township, and particularly in Park Ridge.

Chapter 8

Religion Gets a Start

AT THE time of the settlement of Maine Township, the big majority of Americans were not connected with churches. Perhaps this was not so much due to lack of religious faith as to their migrant habits and the small number of people that settled in a single community. The Sunday school movement was a very small thing, and the churches with confirmation classes could not follow the roaming pioneers. So in this western country a whole generation of religious illiterates had grown up that some might be tempted to call "infidels."

Andreas has the following account of religion in Maine Township in the first decade, before Maine Township became a political unit: "The first preacher in Maine was the Rev. Coulson who was sent up from the south part of the state. He was born in Tennessee, and was one of a large family. His father, being unwilling to raise his family in a slave community, sold his property in Tennessee and settled in Illinois. The Rev. Mr. Coulson's circuit, upon which he remained two years, was so large that he could not visit each station but once in about four weeks. His meetings were held in Mr. Walton's house. Mrs. Walton and Mrs. Connor were the church members. This was in 1836. After the retirement from the circuit of the Rev. Mr. Coulson, the Rev. Joseph Lewis was appointed to the circuit, and the church membership was increased by the addition to it of Mr. and Mrs. Johnstone and Mrs. Ramsey. Other early Methodist ministers were the Rev. Mr. Jewett and the Rev. Mr. Hinman, two very earnest and prominent Methodist preachers. The Rev. Mr. Geddes was on the circuit in 1839 or 1840, and about this time Mr. and Mrs. Burlingame, Mr. and Mrs. Holton, Mrs. Ballard, Mrs. Jones, and Mary Jefferson were added to the church roll. Mr. Burlingame was the father of Anson Burlingame, and an exhorter. Elder Mason was also one of the first. After this there came a time when the Methodists had no regular preaching for a number of years.

"Although Methodist ministers were earliest on the ground, there were more Episcopalians in the township in early days than of any other denomination. Services were held in the house of Socrates Rand in 1837, by Rev. Isaac W. Hallam, of Chicago. There was also an Episcopalian minister by the name of Miner, from New York, who preached in 1840. Then regular services were held for a year by a Rev. Mr. Philo, and after him by the Rev. Mr. Allison and Rev. Dudley Chase. Bishop Chase was also at this place three different times and established a church east of Des Plaines, the members of which were Mr. and Mrs. Potter and their daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Wood, Mr. and Mrs. Sherwin, Miss Mil-

lard, Mrs. W. H. Kennicott, Mr. and Mrs. Dearlove, Mrs. Thacker, Mrs. Gibson, Mr. Jeffrey, Mr. and Mrs. Whittington, Mr. and Mrs. Long and Mrs. Kinder." This church did not survive. Ancient records showed the death rate among members to be high and many kept on moving, many going to Minnesota.

Andreas notes how varied the community was in religious conviction. "Most of the religious denominations were represented, and preachers were there at times from most of them. Elder Button and Rev. Isaac T. Hinton, from Chicago, were there. The Rev. Mr. Drake, a Congregationalist minister from Elk Grove, also preached, and Mormon missionaries frequently preached at the house of Mr. Dougherty, whose son-in-law, Mr. Hopson, was converted by them, and received into their church. Mr. and Mrs. Mancell Talcott and William Johnson were Universalists. Dr. Meacham, Deacon Clark and Mrs. Joseph Jefferson, were Congregationalists; Eben Conant, Christian; Mrs. Eben Conant, Mr. and Mrs. Hoard, Mr. and Mrs. Van Gorden, Baptists: and Augustus H. Conant a Unitarian. The rest of the community were not identified with any denomination." This account by Andreas settles a long-standing dispute of Methodists and Congregationalists. The Methodists got here first, even though their first church did not survive.

Another source of religious history of the early days is a minute book of the Monroe Congregational Church, later the Brickton Congregational Church. This book was long preserved by Miss Mary Perkins, and is now in the custody of the Park Ridge Community Church. There is a preface to the book that deserves to be preserved: "In the summer of 1841, some families having located in the portion of the Monroe precinct, on or near the Des Plaines river, who were members of the churches of several denominations, and being without church organization or ministerial leaders, or even a schoolhouse for their accommodation, somehow without much concert or pre-arrangement, would find themselves together, perhaps by some kind of religious instinct, for the purpose of public worship on the sabbath. So they continued to meet, sometimes reading a good sermon, with prayer and singing; sometimes spending the season in prayer, and conference; and found it good thus to wait on the Lord, and remember the sabbath day to keep it holy. Sometimes a travelling preacher would call and spend a sabbath and leave the little struggling group greatly refreshed and strengthened. Sometimes a preacher from Chicago would make a short visit, and preach a good sermon, and leave the people much edified and feasted so they continued to work and worship together. The little congregation gradually increased till a schoolhouse was built on what was called Smith's Ridge. It was thought very convenient, and, being small, was generally well filled.

"This little community now began to attract attention, and was frequently favored with a visit, and a discourse, from a preacher of some denomination, and, as they had a number of good singers, the sabbath services were made quite attractive, particularly as about this time, a very interesting Sunday school was organized (perhaps 1842). This was thought to be a great advance on the moral state of affairs, and con-

tributed largely to the enjoyment of the little band of workers. In this gradual manner, without any sudden transition or change, the question of church organization began to be discussed which soon resulted in the organization of a Congregational Church."

At a meeting held Feb. 4, 1843, a Congregational church was formed with many of its members from other communions. The officiating clergyman was a Mr. Wells, who was sent here, some say, by the home missions department of his denomination.

The creed and covenant of the church were thoroughly Calvinistic and would be of great interest, if our readers were altogether in the religious camp. One can be sure that no Unitarian or Universalist was included in the membership!

The names of the members of the new organization are hard to decipher from the faded record, but seem to be a follows: Rev. B. B. Drake, S. M. Farguson, Curtis and Electa Clark, John C. Clark, Asa Clark, Mrs. Sarah Brooks, Mrs. Pelissa Richmond, Mrs. Hannah Quincy and Mrs. Eliza Sherman. The following made a profession of faith: Joseph Lovat, John Sweeney, Miss Susan Sweeney, William Bishop, Mrs. Sarah Bishop, and Miss Emily Longman. Curtis Clark was elected deacon, and John C. Clark, clerk.

Chapter 9

Pioneers Start a Cemetery

WHAT DID the pioneer do when a member of his family died? He might bury his dead on his farm, and thousands of such little burying grounds may be found in the Middle West. But it seemed more appropriate to set aside a community plot for this purpose. Here is the spirit of cooperation at work again. So the Town of Maine Cemetery became the place where the inhabitants brought their dead. When it started, nobody knows, but tradition has it that this might have been about 1840. Who started the cemetery? It was near the Congregational Church, and it was common for churches to have a burying-ground. But the church was not here long, and its building was sold to Colonel Robb who moved it to the present location of the Country Club, according to the Park Ridge Bank History.

From the same source we learn that there seems to be some evidence that an Indian village was once located near the cemetery. Where did the Indians bury their dead? We do not know.

In 1941 the D.A.R. of Park Ridge had a committee that studied the cemetery, and Mrs. C. L. Vestal made a catalogue of the various graves, as far as they could be identified. The work was completed in 1945, and a copy of this study was placed in the Newberry Library where the writer consulted it. In addition to that he has spent time in the cemetery reading the gravestones when they were legible.

One is immediately impressed with the number of German family names to be found and the German words "geboren" and "gestorben." Of course a lot of Germans moved into the area, particularly in Des Plaines. But could the cemetery have been started by the Germans? These are questions to be answered by later research. One finds in the cemetery the graves of some very old-timers. There is the stone by the grave of Silas Meachem. Esther Meachem Ward should know about him, but she does not. He has been dead now for a hundred years. Robert Meachem, Esther Ward's Uncle Robert, is buried there too. He played an active part in the early settlement. Many of the old-timers have markers which the weather has made illegible, and some of the stones never had any dates at all.

The student of history walks among these graves to study the length of human life in the long ago. More babies used to die than are lost today. Here is a girl of seventeen that has come to an untimely end. But here and there is the record of some hardy soul that reached the nineties. The cemetery does not give the cause of death, so the study is really quite inconclusive.

One who walks down the quiet shady lanes is sure to be reminded of old friends. Here is the grave of old Dr. W. M. Friend with space waiting for his ninety-year-old wife who was once a mother of Park Ridge. And not far away is the grave of Dr. Gustaf Fricke who rode on his errands of mercy on horseback before there were any roads worthy of the name. Here is W. W. Hinckley, long time head of the Park Board, who lived into the nineties, very active to the end.

Fred Gillick lies beside his wife, and one remembers a lot of things about him. He sometimes leaned backwards in his strict honesty. Community institutions are in his debt: the Masonic lodge, Community Church and many another institution. The Rev. George Colman is here, after having "fought a good fight" in the Christian ministry. Scholar, devoted minister, he deserves to be remembered.

On one side of the cemetery is the burial ground of the Guards. Alfonso Ianelli, our local sculptor, has made this the most unique grave lot in the whole cemetery. Kathryn Guard lies here, after passing at Buffalo. She thought she was concealing her cancer from her Sam, and he thought he was concealing it from her. Neither wanted the other to be hurt. By her side lies little Georgia, who left us at age seven. She was their only daughter. One stands there and remembers, as a whole family history passes in review.

It would be impossible for us to stop to remember all of those whose names are on stones. But somebody ought to remember them, for the cruelist thing that ever happens to anybody is to be completely forgotten. Perhaps some of those who love these people have a hurt when they remember. They would not, if they recalled all that went into a wonderful life experience.

The historian turns into the philosopher for a moment. We know some smart young fellows who think that we should be rid of history. We should live as though there were no history. That would be progress. But soon another generation comes and another. Is there to be no continuity in the life of a community? Then there will be no character. Park Ridge would be one thing now and in two decades a totally unrelated thing. That is not progress, but rather chaos. There is no light for our feet but the light of experience. May our successors learn both from our successes and from our failures.

This cemetery does things to one. As we stay here we are determined to come back with a book. So another day we are here with Thomas Gray's "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard." And then our eyes fall on these lines:

> "The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power,
> And all that beauty, all that wealth e'er gave,
> Awaits alike th' inevitable hour;
> The paths of glory lead but to the grave."

But we must get back to history. This old cemetery has affected Park Ridge. Well do we remember all the years when thousands gathered at Hodges Park on Memorial day to honor our soldier dead who left us all too young. We may be in festive moods on the Fourth of July and on other days, but on this day we are deadly serious. The orator

tries to tell us of our dead who laid their fair young lives on their country's altar. The guns give the salute to the seven men who lost their lives in World War One. Then we march quietly and solemnly to honor our Civil War dead and other veterans who may rest in the Town of Maine Cemetery. It is beyond the space limits of this history even to name these men, much less introduce you to some of them. But those who died in war had a rendezvous with death and have put us eternally in their debt.

Other organizations have days to honor their dead. They do it with various rituals. The Masons have such a day. Community Church turns the pages of a memorial book each week honoring continually the veterans of the cross and the book is kept in a beautiful cabinet made by Charles Tesar. There are homes who do not forget each year those who have gone on beyond. When we remember, we help to give these dear friends a kind of second immortality.

Chapter 10

Education Begins in a Cheese House

FEW COMMUNITIES on this planet live in a vacuum. They are in communication with other communities and affected by them. Park Ridge may be politically independent of Chicago, but socially and economically it is not. In the decade beginning 1840 a lot of things were happening in Chicago that were to affect in most important ways the pioneers in Maine township. As already noted, Chicago had become the trading center of the area, where a man might take the surplus products of his farm and trade them for things that the family needed. This pioneer noted a change in the housing of Chicago. The newer homes were "slab houses," built of boards. These were intermingled with the log houses with dirt floors. The ambitious young pioneer went home filled with the ambition of having a "slab house." This ambition was gratified in a few years.

The big national depression of 1837 did not hinder business for the new city long. The first village government of Chicago was voted into being with thirteen votes in 1833. By 1850, there was a population of 28,269. In this were 6,096 Irish, 5,094 Germans, 1,833 Welsh and English, 610 Scottish and 240 from southern Europe. That means that there were 14,346 of native American stock. As this population spread over Cook county, from the very beginning there were a certain number of immigrants.

Chicago was plagued with cholera and little wonder. Hogs and cattle wandered through streets which were never cleaned except as rains washed the filth into the river. Polluted lake water made Chicago an unhealthy place to live for many decades. The need of doctors led to the founding of Rush Medical College in this decade. The tensions of this roaring pioneer town made it possible for Dr. Tew to announce that he would treat nervous and mental ailments. The need of such treatment has grown with the years. The transition from farm life to city life is a trying thing.

In this decade a number of newspapers were founded, one of which survives to this day, *The Prairie Farmer*. There was a Baptist bi-monthly.

It was in this decade that the McCormick harvester was perfected and came into use. Soon after, instead of a few hundred bushels of small grain coming to the Chicago harbor, there were many thousands every year. There was still the problem of getting surplus grain from Park Ridge to market, but that was soon solved. The Galena and Chicago Union Railway was opened to the Des Plaines River in 1849 but it was seven years later before Park Ridge got rail connections.

It was in this decade that the telegraph reached Cook county. The first message came to Chicago from Detroit in 1848. This was the message, sent to three cities, "We hail you by lightning as fair sisters." The pioneers from New England did not feel quite so isolated now, for the death of a dear relative could be announced promptly, and the coming of relatives to join the colony could be made known.

The hardships of life are made easier when one has a sense of humor. Here is a joke that travelled all over Cook county. "A man saw a hat lying in the mud, and bent down to pick it up. On lifting the hat he saw a man's face staring up at him. 'Say stranger, you're stuck in the mud! Can I give you a hand to pull you out?' 'Oh, no, thanks' the face replied, 'I am riding a good horse. He's got me out of worse spots'." Illinois mud does not need to be described to Park Ridge people. The problem of going anywhere in the rainy seasons had to be mastered. We have seen that already Maine township had begun to lay out roads, if not to pave them. There now radiated out from Chicago many roads over which ran stage coaches. They reached all parts of the state.

One of Chicago's earliest conventions was opened in Chicago, July 4, 1847, the River and Harbor Convention. It assembled to protest the veto which President Polk had given a bill to improve the rivers and harbors of the Northwest. Some eminent people were in attendance. These included Horace Greeley, of the *New York Tribune;* Erastus Corning, president of the New York Central Railroad, and Thurlow Reed an eminent editor of Albany. There were 3,000 delegates from eighteen states. Among those to make very brief speeches was a young Springfield lawyer known as "Abe" Lincoln. As time went on he often sat on the steps of the Tremont Hotel and told stories. They used to say of him that he could tell stories that would make the cat die laughing. Were there any Park Ridgers at this convention? It is more than likely, but the known documents do not tell us so.

Meanwhile the decade is filled with events in Maine township. The new Congregational Church erected a log edifice near the present site of the Town of Maine Cemetery. According to the history of Park Ridge published by the Women's Circle of Community Church, the young congregation moved for a while to the neighborhood of the present Union Ridge Cemetery. Then to Canfield (Edison Park). From present resources, it is impossible to date these moves.

The township began to agitate for schools for the children. The first teacher was Harriet Rand. A cheese room was fixed up in 1838 as the schoolroom, and was connected with the home of Socrates Rand. In 1840 S. Rand and Eben Conant built a schoolroom on the land of the former, and Miss Rand taught there. Dr. Asa Clark was the next teacher, and later ones were Orlando Algur, Orvis Skinner and Robert Meachem. The first school trustees were elected August 24, 1841. These were Eben Conant, Nicholas Sherman, Seth Otis, Joseph Jefferson and Alexander Brown.

The territory east of the Des Plaines River was divided into two districts. District number one was to comprise sections 27 to 34 inclusive. District number two was to include sections 25, 26, 35, and 36

and the south half sections 22, 23, and 24. The first enumeration of school children was made in 1841. It showed that there were 102. The teachers did not get rich those days.

What composed the Monroe precinct does not at this time appear. There may have been a store on the river to which the farmers came to secure their supplies. It may have been regarded as the center of the township for a while. In the record book of the Congregational Church, its name is succeeded by Brickton, and that takes us into a new era of the community's life.

Chapter 11

Village Called Brickton

THE NEW communities of northern Illinois in 1859 were still delaying organization in a political way, for organization means taxation. The pioneers of Maine township got along fifteen years with neither township nor village government. The beginning of Maine Township as a political unit was at a meeting held April 2, 1850. Socrates Rand was chosen as chairman and Curtis Clark as clerk. The meeting adjourned to the schoolhouse of district four. There the first legislation for the township was passed. Henceforth "hogs should not be free commoners, and sheep and cattle were prohibited from running at large." Once a problem like this could have been solved by a neighborly talk, but as the community grew larger there were evidently some careless citizens that did not look after their rail fences. Animals in a grain field can destroy much more than they eat.

It was voted to change the name of the town to Wauksaik, but this resolution was never carried out. The first town officers were as follows: supervisor, Curtis Clark; clerk, John Gazlez; assessor, Joseph Mitchell; collector, William Johnson; commissioners of highways, Alvin Scott, J. H. Rand, and H. A. Grannis; justice of the peace, T. Brown and J. C. Clark; constables, William Johnson and Wiliam Brown. At a subsequent meeting on April 27, the commissioner of highways made a lengthy report, and as a result $40 was voted for roads and bridges.

Andreas gives us the names of the various officers for the next 35 years but we shall chronicle only the supervisors: Socrates Rand, 1851; Mancel Talcott, Jr., 1853; H. F. Grannis, 1854; William Johnson, 1855 to 1857; Alvin Scott, 1858 to 1861; O. H. Algur, 1862 to 1863; Enos Scott, 1864 to 1865; H. C. Senne, 1866 to 1869; Fred Mahlman, 1870 to 1871; Lewis Poyer, from 1873 to 1883. One sees a lot of rotation in the officers, and a dozen or more men pretty well managed the township for a generation.

Up to this time we have not paid enough attention to Smith's Ridge where a schoolhouse had been erected for the farmers that lived in the area. In 1840 two men took a claim to a piece of land on which the Masonic temple stands in 1961. It is a little strange that two men would build a house, but that is the way the record reads. This was a frame house. In 1853 George W. Penny came to Smith's Ridge looking for clay that would be suitable for the making of red brick, and we who live here in 1961 might find traces of the old clay hole on Grand boulevard around Elm street if we were archeologically minded. He joined up with Robert W. Meachem to establish the firm of Penny and Mea-

chem. This firm made pressed brick here from 1854 to 1866, when the firm sold out to Meachem, Lockwood, and Co.

Park Ridge now passes out of the stage of an agricultural village to an industrial community. The making of brick involved the use of a considerable number of "hands" who lived here in that period, and some of them may have become the founders of Park Ridge's families.

There is a record of how this brick was used. The first brick house was erected by George W. Penny in 1856 on the site where the frame house erected by Warner and Stevens once stood. The next brick building was the store erected by Penny and Meachem in 1857. The third building was the railroad station. Th fourth housed the Methodist Church, which had been organized in 1856, and erected a building in 1859.

However, most of the brick went to Chicago, and the new railroad, of which we shall speak later, made it possible to send the brick to that market. It is recorded that Penny and Meachem made five million bricks a year by the hand process. They were out of business before the days of the great Chicago fire which might have made them independently wealthy. However, the clay was rapidly being exhaused, and the industry dwindled under changing leadership, though a bit of it was carried on as late as 1884. No records are available of what might have happened afterwards. The brick bats in that part of town have a way of working to the surface in the spring of the year in certain Park Ridge back yards.

When the brick yard was opened, the little community of a few houses was called Pennyville, but George Penny seems to have been a modest man, and he did not want the new community named after him so it was by usage called Brickton. There was no legal organization of the village until 1873.

The end of Monroe precinct came with the railroad and the erection in 1857 of a store building by Penny and Meachem. This brick building was more "swank" than any previous building, and became the shopping center of the area for a considerable time.

Maine Township got its first post office in 1837. It was located where Touhy avenue now crosses Des Plaines River, according to the "History of Park Ridge by Community Church Circle." The first postmaster was Capt. Mancell Talcott, who had come here from New York in 1836, and his first commission was dated January 24, 1837. This was less than six years after the opening of the Chicago post office. Things were moving fast in Cook county! Andreas says that the first post office in Park Ridge was established in 1856 when the railroad began business, and the first postmaster here was Robert W. Meachem. A. B. Sherman succeeded him in 1873, and C. E. Stebbings bought the store building of Mrs. George Penny in 1872, and became postmaster in 1880, according to Andreas.

Let us try to take a peak into those early Park Ridge homes. There would have been no kerosene lamps, for the first barrel of petroleum had not yet been put upon the market in America or anywhere in the world. The houses were lighted by candles made from tallow, in all probability. Once there was a fireplace to add to the light, but by this time the stove

that Ben Franklin had invented was doubtless in use. At a later time the fireplace came back as a decorative adjunct to the home.

Recreation was needed then as always. The sketch in the Community Circle booklet tells about dances in the winter time with the children tucked in while some one played the fiddle. But we must remember that both churches frowned on dances at this time. We hear of no bridge clubs. At a later time four boys were put in jail for swimming in a state of nature in the clay pit. These boys later became aldermen. There was a wedding in 1856 when Ellen Haskins became Mrs. A. J. Whitcomb. How did the young people do their courting? It is tantalizing for our records to give us long lists of names of people who held this office or that but do not answer the more fundamental questions about pioneer life.

Chapter 12

Railroad Comes in 1856

TRANSPORTATION is one of the great facts that make history, as we have already seen. The first train steamed into Park Ridge in 1856. It was the beginning of a new era. The canoe of the Indian had been superseded by the steamboat. Now comes the first train to Park Ridge, which means an expansion of freight business. More brick could get to market. The farmers could ship more grain, and in return buy more of the luxuries to be found in the city of Chicago. The provincialism of people who had never gotten ten miles away from home was over. Travel was mentally stimulating.

The railroad was invented in Britain, but soon afterwards it was introduced to America. The first train out of Chicago in 1848 went to the Des Plaines River on the tracks of the Galena and Chicago Union Railroad. The train made twenty miles an hour, with the mayor and his guests on board, holding their hats on tightly as they rode along in the open cars.

The rairoad to Park Ridge was called the Chicago, St. Paul, and Fond du Lac Railroad at first. The building of it commenced in 1852. Soon the stockholders lost all their money, and eventually it became a part of the Chicago and Northwestern.

Most people now days have little idea of what those early railroads were like. There were no steel rails. The Bessemer process of making these rails was invented in 1858. The rails earlier than that were made of wood with strap iron on top of them. These were a problem. The straps would come loose sometimes, and run up into the cars, wrecking the train. Or the farmers would steal some of the strap iron, for it was very handy around the farm. When the train came along, if the engineer was not alert, it would be wrecked. Naturally the wooden rails were short-lived.

The first engine down in Chicago was called the Pioneer. Wo do not know the name of the first engine on our line. All engines those days had "cow-catchers" on the front of them. That suggests one of the problems of early railroading. The cattle roamed the prairies, and often got on the tracks. The "cow-catchers" were designed to push the animals off the track before they wrecked the train. It is noteworthy that our diesel trains running through Park Ridge in 1961 do not have cow-catchers. They do not need them, for there are no cows on the tracks. The engines used wood as fuel.

It was in 1854 that rail connection was completed between New York and Chicago. In much less than a week a man might go from one city to the other. This was quite different from taking the water

route of several weeks or the still longer method of doing it by canoe. The fast transportation meant a new population explosion for Chicago. In 1850 there was a population of 29,963; in 1860 the population had risen to 109,977. This meant more housing shortage and more demand for food, so more and more farmers pushed their way out to the prairies. Park Ridge got her share of these newcomers.

When the railroad stations were built up northwest, there was one in Canfield and one in Des Plaines but none in Park Ridge. Penny and Meachem needed a station here, so one was built out of Park Ridge brick and the firm maintained it for ten years.

Now appears a colorful figure in the life of the village. He was called "Uncle Sam" Cummings. He moved in here from Des Plaines to be the first station master. He carried the mail to the post office, which gave him his nickname. He acquired a house in the fifties at 120 Fairview, and the house is still standing. He married the preacher's daughter, Miss Bundock, and reared a family. For many years after his death his son and daughter, Samuel and Estelle, lived together here. "Uncle Sam's" duties were not very arduous, for at first there was only one train each way a day.

There were scattered Methodists in the area long before the organization of the Brickton Methodist church in 1856. Methodism had traveling preachers who came around once in a while to visit their scattered families. As previously noted the scattered population had affiliations with various denominations, but in this decade the Congregationalists and Methodists were the most numerous. An effort was evidently made in the early fifties to establish a union church, for Rev. T. P. Brannum, minister 1920-25, told the writer that the abstract of title of the present Methodist property shows that a union church once owned it. He was unable to secure any further information. Old records state that it became impossible for the various sects to agree on a union property, so the Rev. Mr. Bundock secured pledges of four thousand dollars, and the trustees began the erection of a church edifice. At first a basement was roofed over, but later the building was completed. One of the money-making devices was an excursion on the new railroad to Crystal Lake which netted $239.97.

There is no record of a meeting of the Congregational church in 1856, but at a meeting January 30, 1858, it was voted to consult with the trustees of the newly erected Methodist edifice of Brickton about holding services in this building every alternate Sunday. This was for the conference year. The Congregationalists promised to contribute liberally to the maintenance of the building, though the Methodists had made no request for this. The Congregational church seems to have been dormant most of the time during the Civil War but in 1868 they renewed worship in the Methodist church.

The Methodist church edifice was built of Park Ridge brick, and the old structure is now a part of Jorgeson hall. Not many of these brick are left in Park Ridge, but there are some in the Masonic Temple. Both Penny and Meacham became members of the Methodist church.

When the Methodist edifice was built, it took the place of a blacksmith shop. Such a shop was a social center in the old days where

many a neighborly visit was held. It may be presumed that the shop found another location. By this time Niles had two blacksmith shops.

Few people these days realize what the life of a clergyman was like in the pioneer days. Dr. Penneywell, in the Centennial History of the local Methodist Church, presents this report of an unnamed clergyman: "preached 96 sermons, gave 30 lectures, attended 40 sessions of Sunday school, conducted 7 funerals, wrote 296 letters, made 415 calls, travelled 2,386 miles, received $309.45 for support." If our citizens today could find out how he did it, they would soon become rich men. However, this story of ministerial support may be matched by the story of the salaries of teachers in this era. Certainly in those days no one entered either of these professions for the money that was in it.

Chapter 13

Civil War Days

THE HISTORIAN finds himself terribly frustrated sometimes. The political history of Park Ridge during the decade following 1850 would be worthy of many chapters if there were any way to discover the facts. It is true that the village itself had only a few houses, but the farmers became more numerous, and, at the village forge or in the drug store, they doubtless met, consuming many plugs of chewing tobacco and defending their views. The community had no newspaper yet, and people were too busy to begin writing the history of their little community. But Chicago, a village thirty years before, was already one of the larger cities of America. It had newspapers, and a railroad to bring them to Park Ridge. We cannot believe that the farmers were solely interested in corn and beans.

From here on in this chapter we shall write what we must regard as probabilities, which is a poor substitute for documented facts. As we accounted for the shaping of the community's soul, this chapter just had to be written.

The clouds of national controversy were growing blacker back in the East. Great figures like Calhoun, Clay and Webster fought each other in the national congress. The lines between the pro-slavery forces and those favoring free labor were sharply drawn. The giving of statehood to each territory started the controversy all over again. The south had succeeded in bringing Texas into the union as a slave state. Abe Lincoln sacrificed his seat in congress by opposing the Mexican War, and Illinois was generally cool toward this war. There seems to be no record of Park Ridge casualties in that war.

In 1858, Stephen A. Douglas made a speech from the balcony of the Tremont House in Chicago, which was followed by a speech from the same balcony by Abe Lincoln the next day. Soon afterward Lincoln challenged Douglas to debate. These debates were held in many towns in northern Illinois, as the historic markers show. The two men were running for the United States senate, Douglas on the Democratic ticket and Lincoln representing the newly formed Republican party. It was then that Lincoln declared, "a house divided against itself cannot stand." Douglas won the election, and Lincoln went back to Springfield to resume his law practice, going around the judicial circuit on his duties.

But the big news of the decade was the political convention held in Chicago in the Wigwam, where 10,000 people could be assembled. The Republican Party was looking for a candidate for president. Seward, former governor of New York, led on the first two ballots.

Not only was the Wigwam filled, but thousands stood outside. The cheering for the candidates was regarded as an indication of their vote-getting power. Norman B. Judd, a friend of Lincoln, got excursion rates on the railroads, which filled the city with boosters for Lincoln. The Seward men found themselves shouted down. When Lincoln was nominated on the third ballot, the young city went on a celebration that lasted two days. The lanky lawyer from down state came up to accept the nomination, and then went back home to await events.

Now what did Park Ridge do during this historic convention held only thirteen miles away? The citizens of this community had been largely recruited from New England and New York. Would this lead them to favor Seward over Lincoln? The latter was a Kentucky man, and people from the southern section of the state, if they were not Democrats, would favor him over a Yankee. If some research man could dig up the poling sheets of this election for Maine Township, it would be very interesting. Your historian would not know how to get at such a job.

However, once Lincoln was nominated, we may be sure that our farmer forebears gave their support to him, for by this time some of them were doubtless Abolitionists, a more radical type of anti-slavery doctrine than Lincoln professed. Already the underground railroad had a station in Chicago. Runaway slaves were helped to leave the deep South for a home in Canada. If any runaway slaves were housed here in Park Ridge, there is no record of it.

In these terrible times, what were the churches doing? We do know that they bore some witness against sinful (?) amusements, but if they spoke out against slavery, there is no record of it. They may have done so, or they might have been like the great majority of the churches which took a position only after the war between the states broke out.

War makes good business for the farmers, for armies consume more food than is normal in peace time. In war time, prices are good, and there is a gluttonous demand for farm products. One could see the freight trains growing longer as they went down the track to the market center in Chicago. It was one Memorial Day that we first noticed the monument to the Civil War dead out in Town of Maine Cemetery. We shall go out there again to study Park Ridge history, but let us right now try to visualize what this meant to Park Ridge homes. In the early part of the war, the soldiers were volunteers. After the shot fired at Fort Sumter, there were volunteers in excess of the demand. These raw farm boys were forced into battle before they were properly trained, and the casualty list was high.

This interfered with farm operations. In war time women go into the fields to do the work of men in many instances. We have already noted the hard lot of a woman in this period. Add to the necessary hardships those that come in war-time, and we will know why the lives of many women were short. No human being could meet the demands made on these women. Chicago had a great prison called Camp Douglas for Confederate soldiers taken in battle. No battles were fought here, but the realities of war were brought home by the presence of legless

young veterans who would henceforth have a hard way of making a living for a family.

It is no wonder that Park Ridge churches in these days had a hard time. Taxes were mounting, and there were so many places for money to go. The Congregationalists seem to have become dormant, but the Methodists carried on as a part of a circuit. These were hard days for churches, but days when the need of religion grew in the minds of the settlers.

All things come to an end. At last the war was over. Now there was a new chance for the civilizing things of a community to get under way again. But we are bound to say that never again would life be the same as it was back in the fifties. Life moved on. New families built new houses, and they began to think of Brickton as something more than a collection of houses.

Chapter 14

Life in War Time

HISTORIANS of the past have found little to say about the most interesting decade Brickton ever had, that of the Civil War and afterwards. The Community Church history has a portrait of how people amused themselves, but it might have been written of any pioneer community. The Methodist Church Centennial booklet provides the information that the church became a "station" in 1869. Previously it had been part of a circuit. At the end of the decade it had 43 members, and the pastor's salary was $500. Andreas is barren of information. During the decade the Congregational Church was dormant several years, and only in 1868 did Rev. J. H. Laird, of Fairfield, Ohio, come to be its pastor. There were probably less than fifty families in Brickton, the unincorporated industrial village, but many more in the farming community around about.

News of war always comes like a thunder-clap. The citizens always like to believe it could not happen. Suddenly all small talk is wiped out and there is a single concern. That unifies a community, though there seems always to be somebody whose loyalty is under suspicion. For the common good, herculean labors are performed. Slackers are scorned. All of this happened to the farmers and villagers of Maine Township.

The people of Maine township were undoubtedly absorbed by the issues of the Civil War. The newspapers reached here, and told of the firing on Ft. Sumter. Among the first troops to respond to President Lincoln's call were those of Chicago. In the days following, there was a new demand for food. The South produced food by slave labor, but the North now had the McCormick reaper. The reaper did much to win the war, for every war is partly settled by the food supply. The farmers of Maine township now had to work harder than ever. Their young men volunteered at a tender age and went away, some never to return and some coming back in four years as cripples. The women had to help in the fields more than ever.

The wounds were in most cases treated without anesthetics. It is pretty terrible to hear of a boy's leg being sawed off that way. The emotions of war-time were torn by bad news. For three years there was more bad news than good. It took so long for President Lincoln to discover Ulysses S. Grant, a store clerk in Galena, Illinois, and put him face to face with Robert E. Lee. There was fear of the big military prison, Camp Douglas, which had in it 10,000 Confederate prisoners. Rumors were circulated that the "copperheads," the southern sympathizers,

would let these men out some day with results to the countryside that would be terrible. You see there was plenty to talk about in this decade.

Undoubtedly patriotic meetings were held in Maine Township to recruit soldiers and to sell war bonds. These occasions would quite overshadow the ordinary pioneer amusements that went on in a preceding period.

It was in this decade that the farmer's organization, the Grange, came into being. It was against the railroads, believing that they robbed the farmers. Was there ever a Grange Hall in Brickton? What a find it would be for some one to turn up the secretary's seal, as your historian turned up the seal owned by his grandfather!

Right in the midst of the war-time things were going on that meant vast changes in all of American life. A man by the name of Pullman built out of an ordinary passenger car, a sleeping car. Mrs. A. Lincoln rode in this very car to Springfield after the death of her husband. Soon dining cars were added, and in a few years Pullmans were going to the Pacific coast.

Right after the war the Union Stockyards were organized. The Texans, hearing of this, drove herds of half starved cattle up to the nearest rail point in Missouri, and from here they were shipped to the stockyards of Chicago. Illinois farmers came up and got droves of these cattle and drove them back on the farms of the state. After they were fattened they went back to Chicago, and thus the city became the butcher house of the world.

At the end of the decade another Republican political convention was held in Chicago. It may have been less colorful than the ones that nominated Lincoln because it seemed a sure thing that he would win, and he did. But we can see the Brickton families gathered around their candles of an evening reading the news of the time.

In this decade, Chicago nearly trebled in population, growing from 109,290 in 1860 to 298,977 in 1870. This brought a great increase of food demand, and it may be in this period that farming ceased to be chiefly grain farming, and now became vegetable growing. For a whole lifetime Maine Township was to be one of the greatest truck garden areas of the Middle West, and on these fertile acres many German and Scandinavian farmers settled and grew rich enough to retire, in spite of the economic troubles that affect the income of the farmer.

Going back to the churches again, it is not striking that they should have suffered in this decade. War does not aid the great civilizing processes. It does create social solidarity of a kind, but there is not time to read good books. Church services are neglected, and the graciousness of good religion is a smaller influence. Hatreds are engendered that are to last a whole generation and more. We would say that at the end of the decade Brickton was better off financially and worse off spiritually, along with all similar communities of the country.

In the meantime the minions of hell were at work in Chicago as never before. The Randolph street section of Chicago at State was called "hair-trigger block." Prostitution, gambling, criminal assault and various kinds of evil made the city notorious all over the world. We

have no way to know what influence this had on Brickton. Did any of the gangsters visit the village on their hide-out from the law? Once some members of the Touhy gang did, but that was a very long time afterwards. So your historian, with few documents to support his thesis, believes that Brickton and its farming community may have suffered a setback in the decade following 1860.

If the present-day urbane neighborly community was to emerge, there was a lot of good work to be done. How the social and spiritual values that are Park Ridge emerged will be our study. Such a thing is never done by any spasm of reform. In our case it was the result of nearly a century of faithful work by community leaders. So far as may be, we wish to rescue these people from anonymity. Many of these set an example to the people of our generation which would help to complete the job of making our Park Ridge a fully civilized and Christian community.

Chapter 15

When the Roosters Crowed at Midnight

THE EVENING of October 8, 1871, the people of Park Ridge went to bed at nine o'clock as was their custom. They were totally unaware that one of the big events of American history was taking place. No telephone brought them the news, for there were no telephones. But if some restless sleeper got up and looked at the sky, he saw southeast a great light like the coming of the dawn. How they eventually found out the next day what had happened is not recorded. But Chicago was burning.

A narrow history of Park Ridge might not chronicle this fact. But it was sure to do a lot of things out here. So we will go down to the big city of three hundred thousand whose people now sleep on the ground, and try to find out the story.

The summer and fall had been a very dry time. Many cities had had small fires, for the wooden buildings were dry as tinder. Chicago had a sizable fire only a day or two before in a planing mill. The firemen were sleeping it off from this one when the new alarm came. For six weeks they had been having an unprecedented number of calls. They were pretty well worn out before the big emergency arose. Their equipment was never designd for such a big task. So they knew in a short time that they had failed. The wooden slab houses were filling the sky with burning cinders.

Everybody knows that the fire started in Mrs. O'Leary's barn at the corner of Canal and DeKoven Streets. DeKoven street was about as far south as Roosevelt road. Canal was west of the river a short distance.

The American legend is that Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicked the lantern over, and set the barn on fire. This is like the story of George Washington and the cherry tree. An official committee found that the fire started between nine and ten o'clock after the O'Leary family were in bed. A kerosene lamp was found in the barn, but how it got there nobody knows. Maybe it had nothing to do with the fire. The speculations about what happened in the barn are multitudinous and unprofitable.

The river was no barrier to the fire with a strong southwest wind blowing. The south side east of the river was soon wiped out. The defence of some of the loop buildings including the one belonging to *The Chicago Tribune* makes wonderful reading. They all had to go, the fine hotels, Marshall Field's store and at last the county building with its valuable records. The prisoners were let out, and immediately started looting the stores ahead of the fire. Some people tried to carry too many of their worldly possessions and were struck down by the flames. The

prostitutes, gamblers and decent people were mixed up in the maddening crowd that sought refuge. Some went down to the lake and waded into the water. At night the roosters crowed, thinking it was morning.

Across the river to the north the fire went, demolishing houses of the city's plutocrats that were worth $250,000 and more. The gold coast had in it homes that were the wonder of the nation. The water works on Chicago avenue were put out of business, and the fire roared on to Lincoln Park. It stopped only when it ran out of material to burn. People slept on the ground beyond the range of the houses. A few had been able to hire wagons with which to transport bedding and other necessary materials. No transportation was available for less than ten dollars, and then the driver might dump the stuff out before he reached his destination. There was a chill in the air at this time of year at night. It was hard on old folks and little children.

The property losses amounted to two hundred million dollars. Men no longer had jobs, so of course the city rapidly declined in population. Masters says 13,000 buildings were destroyed, which included 2,500 dwellings, 1,600 stores, 60 churches and 600 manufacturing establishments. Sidewalks were destroyed totaling 122 miles. 100,000 people were rendered homeless.

Money was raised in many parts of the world to relieve the distress of the city. The city has a motto, "I will," and it helped itself in miraculous ways. Two days after the fire the Chamber of Commerce met to consider the rebuilding of the city. The disaster of Chicago might have been the opportunity of St. Louis, but it did not prove to be so. St. Louis contributed $300,000 to the relief fund of Chicago; and Cincinnati, $200,000. No city wished to profit by Chicago's disaster.

The authorities got into a great hassle after the fire. Mayor Mason swore in 500 additional policemen, and the state sent in militia. In spite of this, the mayor illegally transferred the police power to General Sheridan, who established military rule. A military patrolman challenged Col. Grovesnor, and he returned a facetious answer. The patrolman shot him.

An election followed in which there was great bitterness. Chicago would not be a quiet city for a long time.

In the meantime, what did all this do to Park Ridge? The village had no newspaper, so we cannot go to the files of a town paper to find out. Undoubtedly this kindly village joined the rest of the world in works of mercy and relief. Soon the town's lumber yard would be sold out to meet the demands of Chicago's building program. How many people in Park Ridge temporarily lost their jobs? We do not know how many commuters there were, maybe only George B. Carpenter. But soon there would be jobs for everybody rebuilding the burned city. There is no record of distress here. The local brickyard was running at less volume, but it now had a gluttonous market. Park Ridge may have received some Chicago citizens who did not want to live through another fire. Anyway, in this decade, the population growth of Park Ridge was fifteen per cent. There were 315 people in 1870 and in 1880 there were 380. This did not include farmers outside the city limits, of course.

In this decade America had one of its very biggest depressions. The national administration was honeycombed with graft. The currency had been tinkered with. As usual this meant unemployment and trouble. But in this decade the population of Chicago grew from 298,977 to 503,185 in spite of the fire. It is not likely that this vast new increase of human mouths did Maine township farmers any harm. They sold more and more food, and that helped them to buy more and more from Park Ridge's few stores.

By now, there was kerosene to fill the lamps, and Park Ridge ladies no longer needed to make candles. Wood began to make way for coal to heat houses. There was no bakery, and one city woman moving here did not know how to make bread. The neighbors told her if she couldn't make bread to try making biscuits. The day would come when one by one her pioneer chores would cease. But the time was not yet.

Chapter 16

Village Gets New Name

THE FIRST incorporation of Park Ridge as a village began with a joke. According to one of the early histories of Park Ridge, issued in 1914, when Charles Kobow started to erect a new store building on the highway, the one now occupied by Ace Hardware, Deacon Gibbs came along, and asked what he was going to do with it. Kobow replied that he was going to put a saloon into it. Deacon Gibbs immediately went to Robert Meachem of the Methodist church, and the idea of incorporating was really a step to prevent the sale of liquor in the community. It is said that Mr. Kobow was really teasing these doughty churchmen of the two churches.

In January, 1873, a census was taken by Robert Meachem and Owen A. Sweet. They found 405 people in the area which they proposed to incorporate. On the Fourth of July, 1873, the village was assembled to celebrate our country's freedom, and the name "Brickton" was tied to a paper balloon and sent up into the sky. It almost collided with the high Methodist steeple nearby, but finally sailed on. A note requested that the finder of the balloon would reply, but it was never heard from again.

The new incorporated village of Park Ridge included the east three quarters of sections 26 and 35, the west quarter of sections 25 and 36, T41, N. R. 1 2E of the third P.M.

The election of the first board of trustees of the village included George B. Carpenter, Augustus Dickenson, Joseph T. Jones, Loring D. Tenant, Charles Kobow and W. S. Chittenden. "Uncle Sam" Cummings was elected clerk. In this office he served nineteen years. The following year the board was enlarged to include the names of Albert J. Whitcomb, Thomas P. Robb, John Hasseman, Ira R. Mansfield, and George W. Broughton. Men who served within the first ten years also included John H. Butler, M. C. Sherwin, Hugh Ratigan, David A. Grubbs, Fred A. Mathews, Daniel Q. Wood, Dr. G. H. Fricke, S. W. Grannes, Fred Schlueter, J. E. Berry, F. Schuman, A. R. Mora, Thomas Hurlstone.

The new village board had work cut out for it. Up to this time there was no central water system. The first artesian well was started in 1874. An old history records the story like this; "The contractors were MacDougall and Joyce of Canada, and the price was to be $3 a foot for the first thousand feet; $3.50 per foot for the next 200 feet; $4 for the next 100 feet, and every additional 100 feet fifty cents per foot was to be added to the price. The depth reached was 1,505 feet, and the cost somewhat over $5,000. Bonds were issued for $5,000, and the cost paid in cash; some bonds were to be due and expiring five years after

date, and the last to mature in 15 years. Interest on the bonds being at 10 per cent, the final cost was something over $10,000. Orginally the water arose to four feet above ground." Now the village homes could have plumbing. The women no longer had to work a pump handle in the back yard to get dish-water. Without doubt this great new improvement contributed to the health of the community, but the water was very hard. It is likely that the householders for a long time maintained cisterns so they might have rainwater for the family wash.

Some of the personalities in this village government should be known to future citizens. Prominent in the group was George B. Carpenter whose former home is now occupied by the city offices of Park Ridge. He was born in Ohio in 1833 and came to Chicago with his father in 1850. In 1857 George Carpenter formed a partnership with Gilbert Hubbard in the ship chandlery business. On the death of Mr. Hubbard in 1881, Mr. Carpenter took over the business. Was he the first daily commuter from Park Ridge to Chicago? Of course, we may never know.

In 1871 came the great Chicago fire that wiped out the city and with it the ship chandlery business. But as the great city rebuilt, Mr. Carpenter built with it. He was married to a gracious lady, and had four sons who grew up in Park Ridge among these were Benjamin, George A. and John A. The last became a musician and composer, having inherited the musical gifts of his mother. The old timers remember the Sunday afternoons when Mrs. Carpenter would gather the village on her spacious lawn for a sing. The Carpenters undoubtedly contributed to the appreciation of the finer things of life which has marked this community.

We might now go back to the beginning of our chapter to supply a sequel. No liquor stores were ever established in the community until the repeal of the prohibition amendment. Then, by a trick of the law, liquor could be sold here. The winter following the repeal, a minister led a group of women through the community to secure signatures to put the issue on the ballot. Certain business interests protested that it would ruin the future of Park Ridge business if the town went dry. But with no other influence than a dodger carried around by Boy Scouts, the vote was two to one for a dry town. That by no means meant it was a community of total abstainers, but it was a community raising a lot of children, and the householders wanted a right environment for these children. Since then Park Ridge has become the leading business center of the Northwest side, with the restaurant business leading.

Among the leading citizens of Park Ridge when it was incorporated as a village was Leonard Hodges. He presented to the village the first park in the community now known as Hodges Park where our Memorial Day celebrations are held. Near by was a triangle which had a small lake in it in the spring of the year. This triangle he gave to the Congregational Church as a site for a building, with a reversionary clause if it ceased to be used for church purposes.

Dr. G. W. Fricke, a young physician from Rush Medical School, was building his large brick house across from the Park, and he saw the new Congregational Church edifice erected. It was built largely by

the unskilled labor of farmers, and others, as the wavy walls showed. But it must have had an architect, for the community loved it. The writer was denounced as a "criminal" when in 1950, it was demolished to make way for the present Community Church edifice. The pictures of it are to be found all over town to this date.

Many of the citizens of this era deserve personal sketches, for they contributed to the shaping of the soul of the community. There is space for one more. Dr. Fricke was for a whole generation the guardian of the public health. Born in Hanover, Germany, he always had the accent of his native land. His parents lived on a farm near Park Ridge in his earlier days. Because he had to ride over a large area in the practice of his profession, he was interested in good roads and had much to do with the road leading to Niles which we now call Touhy Avenue, but in those days was called East Central Avenue. For a while he ran a drug store in Park Ridge. His name appears from time to time among the city fathers. He reared a family of three girls and a boy.

Chapter 17

Changes Come to Park Ridge

THE DECADE of the eighties might be regarded as a time of decadence for Park Ridge, but we have a number of old-timers who were children in this period, and they are filled with enthusiasm for the joy of their childhood. Illinois had a thousand more villages of the size of this one, always in this era less than six hundred people. What made it different? One was the entrance of some vibrant personalities. The other was the industrial change that was going on. In the metropolis thirteen miles away another population explosion had come.

In 1880, Chicago had a population of 503,185; in 1890, 1,449,850. What was doing this? The vast expansion of certain industries. The stockyards still employed the greatest number of people. But the manufacture of harvesters had zoomed up to a large place; the Pullman works were also a big factor. Great elevators were being filled with the grain of the western prairies. Stores along State street were mushrooming to meet the demands of the visitors that came to the city.

In this decade some Chicago architects solved the problem of getting secure foundations for big buildings. Because of this Chicago was the first city in the world to get skyscrapers.

There was a demand for more and more labor. In 1880, Chicago was 68% foreign born. Some brought ideas of labor organization with them from Europe. It was the decade of the Haymarket riots and the execution of some anarchists.

Out in Park Ridge the leading industry, the making of brick, was going into decay. The people that lived in the cheap little houses that had been erected along the highway and on Meachem avenue, had either to find work or to move away and be swallowed up in the big labor market in Chicago. It is impossible to trace this adjustment accurately, but it was about this time that many greenhouses began operation, usually run by people of German or Scandinavian stock. A. C. Tunsberg did not get started this early, but this former alderman raised mint for many decades for the Chicago market.

The big market for food nearby led many into the chicken business. Later the Park Ridge businessmen's organization was giving prizes for the best chickens, and forty years later one was awakened by the call of chanticleer from some neighbor's back yard.

The coming of the Roots to Park Ridge made a difference here. Lora Dean Root is given credit for the starting of the Woman's Club. She has her memory perpetuated here by having two streets named for her. She did not have children of her own, so she reared two nieces, one

of whom, Myrtle Dean Clark of Chicago, is still living. Mrs. Clark has the past year made a substantial gift to our Public Library. The Roots are credited with giving to the city the site of the old Central school, which is now the site of the Public Library. Mr. Root was a publisher of some agricultural journals, and shared his wife's love of Park Ridge.

It was in this decade that Rev. George Colman came to Park Ridge, as elsewhere noted, and in five years cultural interests would have been stimulated. About this time came Captain S. H. Holbrook, a veteran who was captain by courtesy. He had a good voice, and was in a quartette that often adorned community occasions. He was a choir leader for a while, and before the time of Boy Scouts was interested in the boys of the town. Mrs. Holbrook was a "flower woman" and was interested in cultural things. She was the mother of six children who grew up here. One of them became a Y.W.C.A. secretary, and another served as the city's librarian for several decades—Helen and Frances. Capt. Holbrook was a volunteer fireman and Mrs. Holbrook among the founders of the Garden Club and the Woman's Club.

Fred Gillick was a boy here, and our prominent realtor of later days was then helping care for Sam Davis' horse.

Park Ridge acquired a hotel which was near the Gillick building on the south side. Did it go up in this epoch? The school building was on Grant place, and doubtless some present residents, including Bill Kobow, attended here. They have seen the evolution of the Park Ridge school system in its entirety.

The churches were not doing too well in this decade. Dr. Penneywell says that the Methodist Church membership dropped to 30 in 1886. There is no reason to believe that the Congregationalists were doing any better. It was in 1880 that the Congregationalists borrowed a thousand dollars of a Des Plaines man by the name of Jordan. They already owed a thousand dollars to the Congregational building society. If religion was at a low ebb in Park Ridge, it seems to have been worse over in Niles where a preacher made a conference report saying, "Niles Sunday school is in poor condition, 50 scholars, and four female teachers, two of whom are strangers to the grace of God."

If Park Ridge had a lot of unsolved community problems, let us remember that these same problems were unsolved throughout Illinois in the villages. It would be forty years yet until the sociologists of the universities would begin to indicate the areas in which there should be community action. Some day there would be a health officer to control contagion; recreation would be organized both for youth and adults; beauty and neatness would be cultivated. But in this decade in the heart of town on a prominent lot was a blacksmith shop with a litter of useless iron objects. This was prominently in view of the railroad station as travelers went through on the trains.

An interesting feature of the community life was a race track and a stable for the rent of horses south of Belleplaine and east of Courtland where there was not a single house. Horses got their practice here for real racing elsewhere, and the residents could rent a horse occasionally.

This was a contribution to community recreation. A long time afterwards the Gillick interests covered this area with homes.

Politically this was a sad decade for Park Ridge. They saw Grover Cleveland elected as the first Democratic president since the Civil War. The agrarian discontent did it, and certain independent Republicans became "mugwumps" (a term used for the first time), and voted Democratic. It could well be that some of the farmers in Maine township were "mugwumps," but there is no way to determine that. It was a dirty campaign with personal charges against the leading candidates. It neither helped nor hindered the cause of the farmers.

Chapter 18

Big City Stimulates Our Village

THE DECADES of the nineties was one of great events for Chicago. The Columbian Exposition brought into being one of the biggest buildings in all the world, one which could easily have enclosed the pyramid of Cheops. The architecture of the glistening white buildings was marvelous. So the world poured into the miracle exposition to see the things that this mushroom town of sixty years history had produced. On exhibition were many things that led the beholders to determine on some new course of action when they returned home. Farmers in the Middle West would never farm the same way again.

By the side of the Columbian Exposition was the first building of the great new University of Chicago. An old institution had been revived because the great old testament scholar of Yale had captured the imagination of the oil magnate John D. Rockefeller. The newspapers had cartoons of him being pursued over the ice by William Rainy Harper. The millionaire threw bills of large denominations to delay his pursuer. And soon the students would gather on the new campus to sing "Praise John from whom oil blessings flow!"

This was a day of great platform preachers in Chicago, and the books on homiletics in the seminaries still offer some of the sermons of these men to the student who wants to learn how to preach. Foremost was Dr. Gunsaulus, preaching in a theater, who announced in the press a sermon on "If I had a Million Dollars." Among the men who heard his sermon that day was Philip D. Armour. He said he had more money than he wanted. He kept on making it because he loved the acquisition of it more than the possession. So he offered the preacher a million dollars to start a manual training school, which finally grew into Armour Institute, and then into the Illinois Institute of Technology.

It was the age of the bicycle. A young fellow who could ride a hundred miles on the kind of the roads that we had then was considered a hero. Hundred mile runs were laid out.

It was not until 1900 that we find a few permits issued in Chicago for the use of automobiles. That year 90 people were authorized to use electric vehicles; 55, gasoline buggies; and 44 citizens preferred steam. There was a speed limit of eight miles an hour on the city boulevards. The coming of the strange vehicles put the horses into a panic. The use of horns had to be forbidden.

It was in this decade that the new Art Institute was started. The raw pioneer city had developed artistic taste. And about this time Jane Addams started Hull House. This gracious Christian woman was des-

tined to become one of Chicago's foremost citizens. She settled down among the underprivileged of the west side to share with them what she knew about gracious living.

The big city was still growing bigger, and Park Ridge came out of the doldrums to grow with it. The influence of the things we have noted above could be felt in the village, for now the trains ran a little oftener, and it was more practical to go down to the city to shop and see the sights. In the chapters that immediately follow this one, we really trace some of the city influence even though we do not stop to point all of this out.

In spite of the depression that swept the nation in the late nineties, things were not too bad in Chicago. Out in Park Ridge where we had to feed more and more people, things were all right. The vegetable growers down around Pennoyer school were growing more and more food for the Chicago market, and the chicken business in the village was flourishing. Later it was promoted by the public school and by the commercial association, so it must have been a very important part of the economic life of the village.

In those days, there was no high school nearer than Mayfair, and some of our Park Ridge youth went to what was called the Jefferson high school. In a later chapter we shall tell how the Town of Maine High School took its origin. We do not give a list of the pupils that went to Jefferson. First of all, a minority of young people went to high school those days. In the second place, the young ladies who went would be dated, and people would know that they are now in the eighties. This would make your historian very unpopular. In the third place, one would have to call up a lot of people in town to find out. Would it be worth it?

Those new-fangled bicycles may have come to Park Ridge in that decade, but it was later that we got our first stone road. Bicycles could be driven over some dirt roads when they were dry so doubtless some reckless souls bought them. They cost those days from thirty to one hundred dollars, and the tires on them were always picking up punctures. Remember the value of a dollar in that period.

In those days, the town editor was first Harrie C. Miller, who later went into the automobile business. He transferred his work as editor to W. H. Ahrensfeld. Mrs. Ahrensfeld later went into the real estate business with an office at 200 N. Prospect street. The leading meat market of the town was run by Paul Angebauer, and one of our histories of Park Ridge pays him this tribute: "His goods are fresh, and his scales are honest." There had been a time when meat was hauled around to the houses, and the housewife went out and picked out her cut. Mr. Angebauer made two trips back to Germany, but always returned here declaring that Park Ridge looked good to him. Charles Kobow was still here. This stalwart soul was a friend of Governor Altgeld, and therefore a Democrat. As we have seen he had to do with the organization of the community as a village. In this decade the children of Uncle Sam Cummings were young people. By this time Mrs. Morey was already married.

Mrs. A. J. Whitcomb and Mrs. Wannenwetsch were already middle aged! The community is growing up.

The Methodist pastors in this decade were J. O. Foster, R. H. Dolliver, A. C. Wakeman, and J. M. Wheaton. In the Congregational Church, George Colman finished a five year pastorate in 1891. Then C. S. Leeper became pastor and remained several years. During his pastorate the church attempted to enlarge its building, but the death of the pastor interrupted these plans. Rev. F. D. Burhans, a student of Chicago Theological Seminary became the next pastor. He returned years later to conduct the funeral services for Rev. George Colman. The decade brought Dr. A. F. Sherrill and J. W. Welsh. In the succeeding decade both churches had a lot of ministerial changes. It was evidently no easy job to preach in Park Ridge in those days!

Chapter 19

Park Ridge An Art Center

ABOUT 1895 a great change came to Park Ridge. Artists began to move here, not just amateurs, but those sufficiently gifted to make a living in creating beautiful objects. In our generation we can fill Hodges Park with an exhibit of local talent, but much of this is amateur work, though often of high quality. But let us go back to the beginnings of this interest, which has deeply affected the culture of the community.

Our best account of the years of beginning is that found in the advertising book of 1915 called "The History of Maine Township." "Some twenty years ago marked the beginning of the present Art Colony of Park Ridge. About the first artist was Charles Holloway, formerly of Mandel Brothers, and now a mural artist in New York. He exhibited an important decoration at the San Francisco Exposition. Fred Richardson, full page artist of *The Daily News,* was also one of the early colonists.

"About this time Albert H. Krehbiel, upon his return from Europe in 1906, decided to locate here just at the time when Mr. Clute was remodeling his house. Mr. Albright, painter, and Leonard Crunell, sculptor, were a mile away in Edison Park. Mr. Crunell is now living near the Midway Studio in Chicago. The famous log-cabin studio has been standing for over twenty years. Mr. Patton joined the Colony soon after, and later Mr. and Mrs. Paulding moved out from the city, and built their home.

"Adam Emory Albright, President of the Chicago Artists Club, formerly of Edison Park, and whose twins so continuously form the theme of his art inspiration, was claimed as a resident of both Park Ridge and Edison Park. He now makes Hubbard Woods his home.

"Albert H. Krehbiel, prominent mural artist, and member of the Cliff Dwellers is a landscape painter of excellent ability. In conjunction with Mr. De Forest he has established a week-end school, whose students are making history. Mr. Krehbiel is a capable artist and instructor at the Art Institute, Chicago, and his art brings high prices.

"Both Mr. and Mrs. Krehbiel are important members of the colony. Mrs. Krehbiel, as Miss Dulah Evans, illustrated and painted cover designs for high class magazines, among them *Leslie's, The Woman's Companion,* and others. Mrs. Krehbiel is at present engaged in painting portraits of children.

"John Paulding came to Park Ridge eight years ago, and has built himself a charming home. He has his studio in the Stineway building, Chicago. His studio has produced models for stone and bronze; por-

traits, memorials and inscriptions; sun dials and fountains, as well as thoughtful and ingenious subjects for the decorative and applied arts. Mr. Paulding has always taken great interest in the affairs of the town. In his capacity as chairman of the building committee of the Public Library Board, he, together with the late J. W. Pattison, then also a member of the board, was instrumental in obtaining for the town the beautiful library building designed by Irving K. Pond of Chicago. The designs and models for the fountains of Johnstone Circle are Mr. Paulding's work, and were his gift to the town. He has membership in the Tennis club, and is a 32nd degree Mason and a Shriner.

"Edward Campbell came to Park Ridge a year ago from the Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburg. He purchased the home of the late J. W. Pattison. Many of his best pictures are from the gardens and towns of southern Spain, where he has been in the habit of spending his summers. As a teacher of architecture as well as an architect, Mr. Campbell's ability is no less disputed than his ability to paint good pictures, which upholds the theory that one who is an artist in one line, can very easily be an artist in many."

In this period and for many years later a manufacturing silver smith was at work in a brick house that stood on the present site of the post office. He was Matthias Wm. Hanck, and he advertised hand wrought jewelry and silverware. His wife ran a store in the Gillick building for a while to sell these art objects. One could find among the stores one run by Louise Stagg which dealt with art objects, and Esther Ward, used to make and sell articles of beauty in her youth. She admits that she did this to rent a horse once in a while to ride around the Park Ridge race track in southeast town. This cost forty cents an hour.

The town also boasted of some good musicians. Nellie M. Orr was a graduate of the American Conservatory, and one of the faculty of the Western Conservatory. She had pupils in Park Ridge. It is said that these pupils made a name for themselves. She was a pipe organist, and played in Chicago churches. She often played in the Congregational Church. Your historian has been told that she was known as Mrs. Woody at the end of her career.

Miss Belle MacFarland was a violin teacher who had graduated from Royal High School in Berlin, and the Columbia School of Music in Chicago. She was generous with her music and she often enriched the programs of local organizations. She had a deep social interest, and though unmarried, she adopted two children.

In none of our source books is there mention of Frederick W. Goudy who designed a new type face right here in Park Ridge in this period. To make sure of this, some years ago we wrote him in New York, and received a reply confirming the fact. He worked in a barn on the alley back of the Holbrooks home, and the old barn is now used as a garage. The proposal was made a few years ago to name a school building for him, but Park Ridge knew too little about him for that. However, of all the type faces designed on the American continent this is foremost in beauty. Some day we shall be using this type on community printing, as it is available both on linotype and monotype.

The effect of this artist colony on the community was to give us distinction, for our yards and homes show some artistic interest that set the community apart from other suburban communities. The community has never lost its appeal to the creators of beauty, but the story of that should consume another chapter in our history.

The ancient history book discusses the question, "Are artists peculiar and hard to live with?" It decides they are no more peculiar than are grocers or anybody else. This discussion reminds me of an ancient Quaker couple who discussed the matter of peculiarities and came to this conclusion: "Everybody is queer except me and thee, and sometimes I think that thee is a bit queer."

Chapter 20

The Electrical Age Begins

THE ELECTRICAL age probably began in Park Ridge in the nineties. The history of Park Ridge issued by the merchants in 1915 records that M. Schiessle was the first proprietor of the electric light system supplying Park Ridge, Edison Park, Norwood Park, Edgebrook and Jefferson Park, which interest he sold out to the North Shore electric Company, now merged into the Public Service Company of Northern Illinois.

Our Albert Verity, the octogenarian of keen memory, says that the Schiessle that started the electric plant in Park Ridge was not the real estate man of later years, but his father. At any rate, once a dynamo hummed on Fairview avenue in a building near the old Perkins express building—or was it the same? Upstairs there was a hall where the young people had dances, and they did not mind the noise of the machinery. But when the town wanted to hold a lecture in this hall, it was just too noisy, and the citizens sighed for a better place.

The beginning of the electrical age is even more important to mankind than the beginning of the age of steam. Men's muscles could not perform all the work that had to be done so animals were drafted to help. Then steam was harnessed, and electricity and finally the internal cumbustion engine with its petroleum fuel.

Youth in high school dreamed of the new age, and at least one wrote his high school oration on it in central Illinois in 1894. He was no Jules Verne, for all he had in his laboratory was a blue vitriol battery, a few electromagnets, a frictional electrical machine made out of an old vinegar bottle, and a Leyden Jar. His grandfather took him to Bloomington to see the first electric street light over there, and when he got to college he studied by kerosene lamp until 1898. Checking on other Illinois communities, it would seem that this was about the time electricity came to the ordinary communities.

Perhaps the great World's Fair in Chicago in 1893 had something to do with speeding up this process. This was only a few miles from Park Ridge, and one cannot doubt that nearly everybody in the village went. Perhaps some of the men here helped build it. No old-timer who saw it can ever forget its glories. The white stucco buildings illuminated at night with electric light had the glory of the New Jerusalem. It was the electric light that produced the dazzling effects. The visitors went home with a new desire. When would electricity come to their home town?

Of course, the houses in Park Ridge had to be wired to use this new force, and at first the methods used were fire hazards. Soon, however, there came contractors who could put in wiring that would last indefinitely. Who the earliest contractors were does not appear, but prominent in the advertising history of Park Ridge issued in 1915 was the announcement of Novak and Parker. They must have had predecessors. And doubtless Novak and Parker were beginning to sell some of various gadgets to be found in every home that uses electricity. In a current ad of the General Electric Company, it is said that many homes have thirty electric motors. But it took a generation and more to do that. The end is not yet.

We are much more interested in what happens to human beings in various stages of history than what happens to machines. So let us go into a typical Park Ridge home in the nineties, and see what the new dynamo is doing, and anticipate what it is going to do. The housewife is now free of one dirty chore every morning, and that is the washing of kerosene lamp chimneys. Later some of the fancy kerosene lamps are going to be wired for electricity and kept to remind us of days gone by. But gone are the days when the studious must strain their eyes of an evening while they try to read the few books that are available.

The overworked mother and housewife certainly welcomed the coming of the vacuum sweeper, though she had to wait quite awhile for this. To go over a house every day with a broom is quite a chore. It was a happy day when the electric flat-iron became available. Before its advent all summer long the kitchen stove had to be fired up for ironing day and the work done in suffocating heat. When the household refrigerator appeared a whole group of men were compelled to seek new employment, the ice-men, but their muddy feet no longer tracked up the kitchen floors.

When did the village of Park Ridge install street lights? No one seems to remember. This, too, was important. Cities that fight crime find that light is most valuable. It is in the darker areas of the big cities that crime abounds.

Park Ridge was close to a big city. Chicago had grown until in 1900 it had 1,698,575. By this time Park Ridge was much more accessible to the big city than before. Down there crime was rapidly giving the city a world reputation that was evil. Would the crime of this great city spill over into Park Ridge? Later we shall tell how it did, and what our police did about it. But light on our street corners was important.

Going back to the hall over the dynamo on Fairview avenue. Who would have gone to parties there? The Perkins young people were of the age for it, Lewis, Edward and Mary as well as she who later became Mayor Cole's wife. The Cummings young people, children of "Uncle Sam," were there, and this included Samuel, Estelle and Mary. Doubtless our Mrs. Morey was there. When our present day young people ask them what they did for recreation, this new crowd pities the people of the long ago. They do not need to. In the "good old days" young people used to get a team and sled with a wagon box on top of it. They sat on the straw with blankets over them, and many masculine hands

used to feel around for the soft little hands of a companion. There is the record of one such party that went up to Arlington Heights for an oyster supper in sub-zero. It is not recorded that anybody caught cold.

It seems to be in this era that new industries begin to make their appearance. The day was to come when Maine township would become one of the great greenhouse centers of the whole world. Artists manufacturing many beautiful things will soon be here, and some were already here. This made possible some growth for Park Ridge. So long as it was only a shopping center for the farmers round abouts, there was a definite limit to the size of the village, especially with the brick factory shut down. Some day there would be a lot of Chicago commuters, but that day has not yet arrived. There was just a simple little village, but the old timers loved it.

Chapter 21

The Telephone Arrives

THE YOUNG people of this generation can hardly realize that not long ago there were no telephones anywhere in the world. The first telephone exchange, said Miss Estelle Cummings, was set up in the kitchen of a Mrs. Russell who managed to carry on her household duties amid the infrequent calls. At a later time, the exchange was located in the back of "Doc" Wintersteen's drug store. Whether he had to hire a girl to watch the board is not stated. When was all this? No one seems to know, but the average Illinois community reached this stage in the nineties.

Alexander Graham Bell secured a patent for the telephone in 1876 after a lawsuit with another claimant. He lived in Boston at the time. The first telephone exchange was installed at Hartford, Conn. Soon a factory was set up to make the instruments, and this was located in Chicago, the Western Electric Company, still the largest source of telephone equipment. By 1890 the telephones in America were 0.36 per hundred of population, which meant that only a few people had invested in the new "gadget."

But its worth was soon manifest. When the doctor was needed, he could be reached in a hurry. People visited over the phone, and at first rushed to the party line phone every time the bell rang, so for a while at least all the telephone subscribers of Park Ridge were in pretty close touch with each other! In the booklet the merchants published in 1915, it is stated that the telephones had increased by a rate double that of Chicago. In 1904, the Des Plaines Telephone Co., serving our township, had 150 telephones; in 1915, 1100. That was a good record of gain for 11 years. The booklet gives the company sales talk, which is interesting: "The telephone pays in money. It pays in time saved. It becomes the principal door of your business establishment. It becomes, as well, the principal servant in your home, at any or all times. It is the cheapest servant of mankind in the world."

In 1915, there was one telephone for every five inhabitants, which would be almost one to a family. The company was owned by local people ninety per cent. At this time, J. F. Risser was the manager.

It took a good many years for the telephone to reach any distance. In the nineties the writer's father telephoned thirty miles to Bloomington by shouting very loudly into the instrument. This made neighborhood conversation for a good while. After a while the telephone engineers installed "boosters" which extended the long distance reach, and when the familiar radio tube came in, this further extended the reach

of the telephone. The writer got a call from New York to Rome through wireless in 1952. Now one may talk to London through an Atlantic cable almost like calling an American station. All the while Park Ridge has continued to use these expanding facilities, and her citizens have often been employed at the Western Electric to manufacture the equipment.

Many cities had competitive telephone systems at first. Rockford in 1900 had both Bell and independent telephones. They were cheap, only a dollar a month for each. But it was not long until America realized that the telephone was a natural monopoly. Park Ridge was always served by the independents, and its original company has been absorbed by the Middle States Telephone Company.

But let us go back to Park Ridge in the nineties when the telephone first came to the community. Mrs. Anna Colman, widow of William H. Colman, is a woman of 88 years with some vivid memories of Park Ridge in the long ago. She came here with her father Richard Martin Williams, in 1888 when she was sixteen. She started in at the Congregational Church which at that time had as a pastor the Rev. George Colman. Mr. Colman was a Massachusetts man with a Phi Beta Kappa key, probably the finest scholar that ever graced a Park Ridge pulpit. At his passing, he left a trunk full of carefully prepared sermon manuscripts.

This preacher had a son of seventeen, William H. Colman, who soon began making eyes at the newly arrived Ann Williams. They had kept company for four years when they were married. For forty years they lived on Touhy across from the present site of St. Paul's church where they reared a family composed of George, Ruth, Richard and Marie. Ruth became the town's first librarian and at her untimely death she was on the library staff of Northwestern University. Marie became the wife of William F. Kratt.

Richard Martin Williams soon became the superintendent of the Congregational Sunday School, and in addition for many years taught a class of young women known as the Rose Circle. Long after his death these girls placed a plaque in Community House in his memory.

Mrs. Colman at age 88 still has a vivid memory of the long ago. She remembers that when they came here in 1888 there was only one good road into Park Ridge, a plank road which collected a ten cent toll at the edge of town. She remembers driving to Chicago one day, and it took the whole day to make the journey.

She says that the first electric light plant, with its hall above, was on Main street, and was moved back on Fairview to become the Perkins warehouse.

Mr. Colman was in the employ of the General Electric Company for 49 years. In the later years he was the man who met big customers and took them out to dinner. He was active in civic movements in his home town, and for many years he was chairman of the board of officers of Community Church. Mr. Colman had a brother, Alexis, and a sister, who was a missionary.

Of the same generation as the Colmans were the Moreys. The original Morey settled on a farm after arriving from Wales. He lived many years on Northwest Highway. He married Lottie Jones, now 88 years old, who has spent her life here. Her memories of the Park Ridge of the long ago are less vivid than those of Mrs. Colman. She has been a life-long member of the Methodist Church.

Andreas says that in 1883 the village had 605 inhabitants. His account of business as of that year is: "In this village there are two general stores, one drug store, started in the spring of 1882, one blacksmith shop, one shoe shop, two brick yards, two churches, one school, an assayer of photographer's waste, a manufacturer of photographer's acid proof trays, an ice dealer, and the Park Ridge Poultry Yard, with three incubators capable of hatching six hundred chickens every three weeks." This was the economic support of the village probably for some years afterwards.

Chapter 22

Our Grade Schools

THE MOST American thing in America is our public school system. One may travel around the world and hardly find a parallel. Yet aside from the slavery question, it has been for more than a hundred years our most controversial topic. From the days of Horace Mann in the early years of the nineteenth century to the days of Governor Faubus, we have been debating the public school question. One is gratified to see that Park Ridge has nearly always been on the right side of these debates.

Horace Mann, of Massachusetts, insisted on general taxation for the support of the public schools, taxation of the childless, taxation of everybody with property, that every child might have an equal right to the educational system. He insisted that the schools should be divorced from church control, for the churches had not always done a good job in the educational field, and the multitude of denominations made church control difficult. There are issues arising from these policies that continue to our day. The Bible may not be read in the public school, for who shall decide whether to use a Catholic or a Protestant version. As a result, a great literature must be explored by the public school pupil elsewhere. This throws back on the churches a responsibility for this area of education. It is legal for the schools to allow some released time for this task, and some Chicago suburbs have religious mid-week schools, but not many. It has been proposed for Park Ridge, but we have not moved forward into it.

On the racial issue, Park Ridge has been on the right side always. Forty years ago a negro family lived here and the children were accepted without comment by both church and public school. We have had Chinese children grow up here, and a family of Koreans. Not only in school and church, but even in business circles, these families have been fairly treated. When the Chinese restaurant burned out a few years ago, some businessmen helped the proprietor back into business. We should hang a lei around the neck of each of these businessmen.

The minutes of our school board go back to 1858, more than a hundred years, but your historian has not read them, partly because he has not yet gotten access to them, and partly because one may doubt just how much wheat a historian would find in a lot of chaff. One would learn how much teachers used to be paid, but we know that from other sources. One could hardly use all the names that one would secure. The location of the various buildings acquired would be verified.

In 1855, the year before the railroad came in, the teachers were Martha Ferguson, M. C. Skinner, Harriet Clark and Helen M. Peck.

The "wages" those days were $5.25 per week in the summer and $1.37½ a day in the winter. In 1861-62, R. W. Gunnison received as his winter pay, $137.50. Augusta Meachem taught in the summer of 1862. The population of Park Ridge in 1883 was 605, so the school population then was not very large. Mrs. Robert J. Stagg reported a school district population of 3,460 in 1883, 942 of whom were between the ages of six and twenty-one. The district included many farmers.

The John Dewey influence on educational theory now became a dominant thing in America for many years. He believed in educating people for the kind of life they would live. Was it John Dewey influence that led to this development in education in Park Ridge?

In 1915, A. M. Blood was superintendent of schools, and by this time we had the old Central School building in addition to the antiquated Grant Place School building that was still in use. The village seems to have gone in for a lot of chicken raising to supplement the family income, or perhaps to provide all of it. The account of his venture into chicken raising is to be found in the history issued that year: "The Park Ridge Commercial Association gave the school twenty-five one-day old chicks. Mr. Blood formed a miniature stock company, and there were a few pupils in the school that did not belong to it. Other chickens were acquired. The eggs were brought daily to the school room, and sold to the highest bidder. The fifth grade was selected, in order to emphasize fractions, the keeping of accounts, and letter writing."

S. E. Merrill came to Park Ridge from Chicago to become our principal in 1917, and remained here in active service until 1932, the last two years have the function of personnel administrator.

In the fall of 1928 the enrollment was 1,021 pupils. On November 28, 1928, work was begun on three new school buildings now known as Eugene Field, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt. It seemed as if the housing problem of the schools was solved, but on October 30, 1930, a destructive fire broke out in Central school, rendering the building useless. The pupils of this building were housed in near-by churches, and in the Masonic temple.

The first free kindergartens were opened in Community and St. Luke's Churches, using the Georgia Guard equipment, which had been donated. The Georgia Guard kindergarten had operated in Community Church in memory of a little girl who had died with a "strep" throat infection. She was the daughter of Samuel and Kathryn Guard.

The depression now brought the schools some severe problems. Many people could not pay their taxes, so there was no money for salaries. Tax anticipation warrants were sold by the citizens, and the schools kept open. A salary cut of ten per cent was given the teachers. With all this trouble, the school children of Park Ridge increased fifty percent from 1928 to 1934. It was in 1935 that an organization of seventh and eighth grades similar to the junior high school, was put in operation. In 1936-37, a textbook rental plan was put in operation. The students were organized into clubs of various interests, including girls' cooking, boys' woodworking, Red Cross, stamps, dramatics, cartooning, and art appreciation.

At this time, H. D. Winslow, Ph.D., was superintendent of schools. It will be seen how far our school system moved toward the higher levels of achievement during his administration. One-fourth of the taxpayers of the district were delinquent with their taxes, so the problem was a severe one. The average salary for a teacher from 1931 to 1938 was about $1,550, per annum. The teacher load was about thirty pupils.

Since the coming of Blair Plimpton, Ph.D., as superintendent of schools, the district has been compelled to meet another population explosion with the erection of a number of new buildings. These include the George Carpenter School, the Thomas Edison School, the James A. Madison School, the Stanford Merrill School, and the George Washington School. Among those helping the superintendent during the years has been Clifford H. Sweat, who is in charge now of the junior high school and whose service has been conspicuous.

The PTA was organized in 1925 by a committee composed of Mrs. Frank Parsons, Mrs. H. W. Youngberg, and Mrs. J. G. Mench, all of whom had sons in the school system. The first president was Mrs. John G. Mench, whose son has long served in the research department of the Eastman Kodak Company as a chemist. Other presidents have been Mrs. H. J. Auer, Mrs. T. M. Whitson, Mrs. C. Bosworth, Mrs. H. G Warr, Mrs. J. Dunlop, Mrs. H. M. Angell, and Mrs. Walter Strassheim. This brings us up to 1938. When the citizens question school administration policies, this organization provides a place to discuss fundamental issues in education.

Chapter 23

Our Children Went to Sunday School

WHEN THE first Sunday school came to Park Ridge, we do not know, but the Methodist records show that George W. Perry was superintendent of their school in 1863. They record some disappointment in the quality of their teaching staff, as most churches should have done. We have noted some dissatisfaction with teachers. In spite of limited teaching ability and lack of Bible knowledge, teachers often imparted character traits that were most valuable. Some say that religion is not taught, but caught. The writer knew a class of boys in central Illinois which gave the world an editor of a metropolitan newspaper, a cartoonist who went on a chain, a superintendent of the largest pea canning factory in the world, and a metropolitan minister. The teacher was just a businessman who loved boys, and inspired them to do their best.

The Methodists of Park Ridge have had men who served long as superintendents. F. C. Jorgeson, who served the Methodist Church so many ways, held this office between 1888 and 1918. R. M. Pate had a ten-year term. In their school have been eminent teachers, and we gladly give space to the name of Sim T. McCrary, an attorney who taught an adult class.

Community Church, organized in 1917, had as its first superintendent Albert Masters, under whose leadership the school grew until it had to have a new building, the present-day Community House, dedicated in 1926. No more devoted superintendent ever served this school than Elwyn B. Orr. He had as his fellow-worker an attorney by the name of George Chindahl, known to our generation as the father of Marjorie Greene, erstwhile mistress of Community Church manse. None of these men were college educated. Albert Masters called himself an inventor, and he was. Elwyn B. Orr was a telegrapher in a broker's office, but he knew his Shakespeare as few men do, and his musical taste was excellent. George Chindahl was a patent attorney, but he never brought his brief case home. He used his evenings to read, and to train raw Sunday school teachers in the art of teaching. When he retired in Florida, he knew more about the field of religious education than most trained ministers do.

Community Church brought Ellen Parker, a daughter of a missionary from India, and graduate of the Presbyterian School of Religious Education in Chicago, to divide her time as office secretary and director of religious education. She is now the wife of a missionary in Columbia. Since her day, the church has never been without a director of religious

education. The Methodist Church also felt the need of trained directors of the teaching process in their school, and they also have had several such directors. Their growing school also required a new building which was erected in 1952. This is now the largest Sunday school in the city.

Rev. John Hubbard, of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, was once on our public school board, and he had a deep conviction that religious education should be supplemented by a mid-week program, which is being done in many parts of the country. Lack of available funds always delayed the realization of his dream.

Park Ridge was in full touch with movements in the field of religious education that were to transform the Sunday school within a generation. In 1904, the young and vigorous William Rainy Harper, president of the University of Chicago, brought together some of the leading educators of the country in Chicago. These surveyed the field of religious education and found many things wrong with it, so they organized the Religious Education Association. The older Sunday school organization found itself under pressure to mend its ways. The uniform lesson for all the grades in the schools was soon abandoned to make room for material suited to the educational development of the children. Teacher training schools were set up, and the goal was to appoint no teacher who did not have this training. That not only meant better pedagogy, but it meant that many naive conceptions of the Christian religion would no longer be taught. These teachers were shown how to utilize their personal contacts for the benefit of the children and many a child thought his Sunday school teacher the best person in the whole world.

Once the Sunday schools had a "decision day" when little hands went up when, in an emotional situation, they were urged to come to Jesus. To hold up one's hand meant to stay out of hell and get into heaven. Now most of the same churches have week-day training classes not exactly like the confirmation classes of the old churches, but designed to teach the elements of the Christian religion so far as they can be taught in early adolescence. In thirty-five years 1,200 children were inducted into Community Church by this process. The Methodist Church followed the same process, and the Lutheran and Episcopal Churches never knew any other.

The historian is not called on to evaluate the various kinds of religion that are taught to the children of the community, but he is driven to accept these as very important community building forces. Curiously enough, under our laws we can teach children in the public schools the Greek myths to be found in Gayley's "Classical Myths," but we may not teach them the stories of the old and new testaments which are necessary to understand many parts of English literature. Therefore, the churches must take up where the public schools leave off and complete a child's education. This service is appreciated by many parents who are not church members. It is also difficult for the public schools to teach ethics, and almost impossible to teach certain elements of a spiritual philosophy of life. The Sunday school must take up where the public school leaves off.

Usually we think of the Sunday school in terms of its influence on children, but there is an influence on adults that is noteworthy. The Sunday school teacher usually learns more than his pupils do, and this has a way of getting communicated to the community. Many schools have adult classes in which advanced themes are studied. One of our schools had a class in the Dead Sea Scrolls, which has brought very great changes in our understanding of new testament times. This same class studied sympathetically the history and teaching of the leading Christian denominations.

A modern program of religious education has a way of protecting a community from the inroads of obscurantist sects that often get in the road of social progress and sometimes of health itself. A community is not a cultured community until it develops religious tolerance and religious intelligence. It is just this that the ordinary Park Ridger claims that we have. Our Edward Olsen, educational director of the Conference of Christians and Jews, must find us a little farther on toward this goal than some communities are.

Chapter 24

Law and Order Is Established

AS WE have seen, it was not long in the pioneer settlement until there was need of the establishment of the institutions of law and order. We have noted that the first delinquents seem to have been farmers who carelessly let their cows get out into the neighbor's corn. However, as time went on other delinquencies occurred. At last a police force had to be set up. For fifteen years before Park Ridge adopted city government, Charles Duwell had been a policeman under the village government. His parents came from Mecklenberg, Germany. He worked in the local brickyard, and on the Zitzewitz farm. However most of his life he spent on our local police force. Here his duties were varied.

Every evening he had to light 43 kerosene street lamps as well as to be on the lookout for bad characters from the nearby metropolis. He was given the munificent salary of $45 a month, but he knew how to garden; those days all the citizens kept chickens, so he got along.

He recounts how law was enforced from 1874 to 1892. There was a town marshal and a volunteer police force. These were on call at any hour of day or night. He went on the force in 1892, and the two other officers were Charles More and Claus Hamer. From this time until he went into retirement in the twenties he was on the force. After 1901 he was the chief.

He gives us a description of the Park Ridge he saw when he got off the train here August 12, 1874. It is preserved in the History of Park Ridge issued by the Community Women's Circle:

"In the first place, the little brick depot was situated about six feet west of Prospect Avenue. There were corn fields, grain fields, or farming lands where the Prospect Avenue school grounds are now. The freight depot was on the other side of the railroad near Prospect.

"There was not a soul in sight except Sam Cummings, the depot agent. Park Ridge at this time was very small with a population estimated at between 175 and 200. The business district was located on Park Avenue (Northwest Highway) and consisted of a couple of stores and a blacksmith shop. Charles Stebbings had a store at 11 N. Park Avenue.

"There was a large group of little shanties put up for the brick makers, strung along Elm street between Meachem and Park Avenue, and along Park Avenue between Meachem and Elm. On what is now Center Street (Touhy), were old farm houses and barns covered with slough hay—something rarely seen anywhere today."

Chief Duwell became known to the Chicago press one day by capturing a burglar with a full set of tools, who sought to rob the Post Office, then on North Prospect Avenue. The *Chicago Record-Herald* in its March 11, 1901, issue tells the story thus:

"A robber was discovered in the post office on North Prospect Street. He was captured by Captain B. Moore and Policeman Charles Duwell in the act of blowing the safe. When he found he was in a trap, the burglar barricaded himself behind a coal bin and exchanged more than a dozen shots with the officers. 'Shoot, Charlie,' the captain said, 'I can't see him from here.' The next instant there was a scurrying of feet, and the burglar sent a bullet through the rear door. 'Shoot at the coal bin, Charlie, you will get him there.' The burglar again fired, and in a flash Moore sent a bullet at him. 'Steady boys,' shouted the burglar, 'I quit; on the dead, boys, I quit.'

"With hands held submissively heavenward the fierce outlaw gently and demurely allowed himself to be led to the village police station where he gave the name of Frank Adams. He admitted that the timely arrival of the police prevented him from blowing up the safe." W. S. Chittenden was postmaster at that time. Previously there had been a number of burglaries within and around Park Ridge, and the officers were unusually alert.

Park Ridge has had relatively few burglaries by professionals. The juvenile delinquents have been a problem, but the town learned to handle these. If Charles Duwell were here, he would smile at the story of the boy who was throwing rocks at passing cars, and hit the chief's car. A chase ensued, but it was dusk and this boy was nimble. He dropped into a barrel in Dr. Fricke's barn, and the chief could not find him. However, this faithful servant of law and order did not stop until he found the identity of the boy. He was a minister's son! That got the boy off with an apology. Too easy, our readers say. Well, that boy never threw rocks at cars any more.

The Park Ridge police grew increasingly skillful in handling our youthful burglars and sneak thieves, but none more skillful than Willis Jones, later to be chief of police, and now an officer of Citizen's Bank. One youthful offender had committed thefts in every church in town, but got caught in the last one. This boy was a faithful Sunday School attendant so Officer Jones sent for his pastor. There was undoubtedly some collusion for when the officer accused the minister of doing a bad job teaching the ten commandments, the minister sadly admitted his failure, and offered to spend time teaching the great moral principles. The boy would rather give up part of his beautiful June Saturday mornings than to accept the other alternative. The minister and the boy ended up by going fishing. Now that boy is a solid citizen.

A great many factors now enter into the picture of juvenile life. The school gymnasium, the park board activities, the church junkets, as well as their classes and other activities have reduced our delinquency rate.

The policemen as the friend of children and indeed the friend of all the citizens is a concept that has been growing through the years.

Accidents in the home bring help in minutes when the phone is used. The services rendered by our police are many and varied.

The local department reports that about fifteen have gone to state's prison since World War II, but they are outsiders who came in here to commit crimes. The most celebrated of the criminal cases in recent years was the so-called Powers case. Mrs. Eicher and three children were taken out of the state and killed. However, when one remembers the proximity of a great metropolitan city one marvels that we have so little crime. This is due to an alert and competent force. The chiefs of police since Duwell's day have been Harold Haight, Harold Johnson, Charles Singer, Willis Jones, and Charles F. Christensen.

Chapter 25

Norwegians Bring Home Here

BIG CITIES have child welfare problems hardly known in the rural districts. The farm home provides "chores" for the children. There are the 4-H clubs, but the life on the farm provides most of the things needed to reach a successful adulthood. As Chicago grew, its juvenile problem grew. Jane Addams knew this when she wrote her great book "The Spirit of Youth and the City Streets."

When the big city began to look around for favorable environment for underprivileged children, Park Ridge was soon discovered. In 1909 a first unit of a cottage system was begun on Canfield Avenue, on the borders of Park Ridge. Ever since, Park Ridge has felt a friendly interest in the Norwegian Lutheran Children's Home.

Its history on Irving Park Boulevard takes us back a good many years. A gift of five cents began the fund! And the first meeting of promoters for the project was held at the home of Mrs. Sophie Michaelsen, January 14, 1892. A building was purchased November 14, 1898, on 5800 West Irving Park Boulevard. This was the site of the Martin Luther College. The cost of the property was $4,000 of which $1,000 was paid in cash. On May 11, 1899, the home was opened for the reception of children, and soon there were six child residents. Miss Anita Abrahamson was the first matron.

A good beginning was followed by disaster. In Christmas week, 1907, the home burned. No one was hurt, and no lives were lost. The children were taken to the Dunning infirmary for two weeks to find shelter. The building damaged by fire was partially rebuilt, and a hospital room provided. Land was purchased south of Edison Park in 1905 supported by a bequest of George T. Bessesen, but for a time no building operations could be undertaken on this property. In 1907 Caroline Williams came to be superintendent, and she served for seven years.

In the development of the Canfield property, first three cottages were built and then, in 1909, the cornerstone was laid for the first large building.

With this measure of success, others were encouraged to help. William P. Tuttle left a bequest of $100.208. Mr. and Mrs. Andrew E. Seaver gave $110,000 with which the Moe-Seaver Memorial building was erected. They also provided some endowment for the building.

We note that in 1945 there were 144 children in the institution ranging from four to seventeen. Of these, 85 were boys and 56 were girls; six were of kindergarten age.

Grade school education was provided in the nearby public schools. Fifty attended the Myrtle branch school nearby; 42 went to Ebinger school; 10 to Mayfair to attend ungraded classes; and 18 to high school. Some educational work was also done in the home. There was a well-equipped domestic science department. George Reiker was a printing instructor. As the school is supported by a Christian denomination, devotions were conducted every day. That year Pastor Nasby, near by, reported 15 confirmations. There is no report that year of children being put out for adoption, though 30 were returned to their parents. It is evident that these were not children without living parents, but children from homes that could not care for them or from broken homes.

One is impressed by the strength of the auxiliary movement by that time. Twenty neighborhood groups of women were organized with officers, and made contributions to the Home. As one looks over the roster of these women, one notes that they were not all of them Lutherans by any means, but included in their ranks were socially-minded women of many kinds of religious affiliation. The home had a tag day that brought them over three thousand dollars a year.

Superintendent Kildahl in his 1945 report has a good analysis of a child's needs both inside and outside of the Home. He says, "All children need love and affection. Children need the wise friendly counsel of warm-hearted adults. These are the things that foster-parents can give to foster children. Foster children have the same needs as other children, plus a few more. Their feelings are mixed; they want to be loyal to their parents, and they want to be loyal to those taking care of them, but the standards may be different. Many of these children may have suffered emotional shock due to family difficulties, and therefore need sympathy and understanding. Because of these unfavorable experiences, children are at times difficult to understand; they may at first show behaviour problems until they are properly adjusted.

Here is a report of one worker:

"They may have been a problem before they entered the Home and suddenly because of the new routine they conform to conventional standards and become considerate of their fellow playmates. A child who has not had much love and affection may seem indifferent and unresponsive. He does not know how to give and take affection. Upon entering the Home, he may cling to his own playthings as something precious. They are his tie to his former home. As a child becomes more comfortable in his new home, he should throw off such problems as lying, truancy, stealing and fighting."

We asked the Home how the children turned out after they were dismissed. Naturally it is impossible to follow 1800 individuals who have passed through the institution, but the officers seemed pleased with the results of their service. They showed us a letter of a young man who was out in the world, but whose heart turned in deep gratitude back to the Home where he received so much to make his life a success.

It was in the later years that Park Ridge began to become more interested in this institution. Park Ridge had a day when Kiwanis took its luncheon over there. There was a pancake day when the whole

town was invited. It is in no narrow sense that this is a denominational institution. A child does not have to be a Lutheran to get in, and an adult does not need to be a Lutheran to help. The better understanding of these facts will enlarge the opportunity of the Home.

Perhaps some uninformed person wants to know why these children are not put out for adoption. Because most of them already belong to some one. Then such a home may occasionally get a defective that no one would want to adopt. The last fact is that it is in rather recent years that our social studies have made us see the value of carefully selected foster homes.

Once we had in Park Ridge Dr. Van Arsdale. His father was a United Presbyterian minister who founded a place in Evanston where he gathered waifs, and put them out for adoption. He is regarded as the pioneer of this idea. But the problem of the child from a broken home is another matter.

Chapter 26

School for Girls Arrives

THE PARK RIDGE School for Girls, located across from our Country Club, has a long and honorable history. It was organized in 1877 and located in Evanston from that date to its removal to Park Ridge in 1909. When in Evanston it was known as the Illinois Industrial School, and was housed in a building intended for an old soldiers' home. The building had about lost its usefulness, and the institution was in debt when the opportunity came to move to Park Ridge. Mancel (or one of his descendants) gave to the school a forty acre farm which ran south from Oakton and east from Prospect. He was director of the organization. The people who made generous contributions for buildings deserve to be remembered. They were Miss Sara Griswold, $15,000; James Patten, $1,000; Mrs. Haush, $500; Mrs. Potter Palmer, $1,000; Geo. and Elizabeth Stuart, $125,000; LaVergne Noyes, $180,000. The Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs also contributed at this time, and later. Dr. Truman W. Brophy contributed the blooded stock, barn and silo. The records give credit to Mrs. Wm. H. Linn for unremitting efforts in behalf of the school.

When the institution was finally organized on the Park Ridge farm, it had a dairy and good vegetable gardens that provided a large part of the food needed by the girls.

They were housed on a cottage system with 14 to 17 girls to a cottage. The first cottage was the James A. Patten (wheat king) cottage; then followed the Hannah G. Solomon Cottage, The Chicago Woman's Club Cottage, the Mary A. Talcott Cottage, the Ida C. Noyes Cottage, and the Illinois Cottage built by the Federated Women's Clubs of Illinois.

The need of a school building was soon felt, and this, with a large assembly hall, was donated June 11, 1915, the gift of Martin C. Ryerson, Charles R. Crane, Edward P. Butler, and one anonymous donor. This provided for the school work and the social activities. The community soon learned to use this, as it was the most desirable meeting place in Park Ridge at that time. Its halls have echoed often to the impassioned political oratory that was heard in Park Ridge from this time on for several years.

The school activities not only included the usual grade school work, but stress was laid on household science, sewing, gardening, and dairy work. The girls in those days were doing a good deal toward their own care and maintenance.

In the early days the churches of the community took turns in providing Sunday school classes for the girls on Sunday afternoons. They were allowed to attend the church of their choice on Sunday mornings.

Ministers often called on the girls who attended the churches. The school was non-sectarian in its plan of operation, but not non-religious.

In those days the girls that were admitted were from first to eighth grades, and their instruction was within the institution. When a girl reached the age of 16, she was regarded as able to support herself in part. This schedule differs considerably from that in use now. The girls now admitted are of the seventh and eighth grades and high school. The high school girls now go to Maine for their training.

These are not deliquent girls, but to a considerable extent they come from broken homes, or from the homes of invalided parents. The family pays toward the girl's keep as it is able. Very often the juvenile court has handled the case before the girl is sent to Park Ridge.

The attendance at the school varies with the social and economic conditions prevailing in Chicagoland. There have been as many as eighty girls enrolled, but in 1959 the number was down to forty, indicating the effect of better times.

A few years ago the farm was sold to the subdividers, and the money received was placed in the endowment fund. Naturally these days of high cost of living make a problem for the school. Interested women of the clubs of Illinois make personal donations.

The treasurer in 1959 was Mr. Naumann. A very devoted board member of this generation has been Mrs. Blair Plimpton, wife of the Superintendent of Schools of Park Ridge. Among the teachers that have served very acceptably has been Mrs. Harold Malone.

It would be interesting to follow these girls as they leave the school and go out into the world to become wives and workers. One cannot doubt that the story is a far better one than if the lives of these girls had been left to chance. However, we are not able from resources to follow through with generation after generation of students.

One of the complaints against the school in the earlier days was that these girls were not socially acceptable among the young people of the town. The churches tried to remedy this by providing youth acquaintance, but the situation was difficult. A girl out of a broken home has lost something which the girl from an adjusted home always has in abundance.

The board of the school is not all local, though there are large numbers of Park Ridge people who have served on this board with fidelity and even with distinction.

The opening of two homes for underprivileged children made an impact on the mind of Park Ridge. These homes were running full blast ten years before the modern children's organizations were introduced into the community, and before there was a park board with swimming pools for the youth in the summer. But some of these things were on the way. Before any of them arrived a local druggist, known to everybody as "Doc Wintersteen," took boys and organized them into baseball teams. But not yet had anyone thought of a program for girls.

One of the reasons was that there were so many things that a girl should not do because they were not "lady-like." To get a reputation

as a "tom-boy" was supposed to be deadly. Now we do not mind if they climb trees or hike. The result is a physical womanhood that is stronger and healthier than that of the women of the past generation.

Chapter 27

How High School Started

BEFORE 1902, those young people of Park Ridge who wanted to attend high school had to go down to Mayfair to attend the "Jefferson" school. In those days this meant a trip by train, for the automobile was still a curiosity. That meant that a great many fine people living in Park Ridge never had any high school training at all. Many of these became readers, and are self-educated people of fine intelligence, but one can scarely find anybody who is glad that he missed this kind of education.

When the Maine Township High School was started, the first sessions were held in Park Ridge for a little while, pending the completion of a building on Thacker street in Des Plaines. Among the early principals of Maine, was Charles Stewart, Knox college alumnus. He served here for five and a half years before becoming a teacher in Chicago. The list of his public services in Des Plaines is long and honorable. He was succeeded by William Smyser whose term of service was brief.

Then came Charles M. Himel, whose term of service was the longest of anybody up to the present time. He led his school through building campaigns, and through a big depression and developed in it many new features, keeping it always up to date.

There was a great deal of difference of opinion before the new building was located on Dee road. Some thought that the two towns of Park Ridge and Des Plaines should each have a high school. Credit is given to Pastor Spangler, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Whitson, and Fred Smith for a vigorous campaign for the Dee Road site that was finally adopted. In 1930 Maine began to operate on this site.

It is common now for high schools to have the features that we shall mention, but Maine developed them from time to time as they became approved practice for a high school. One finds an up-to-date print shop with a linotype machine, an automobile shop, and many of the arts and crafts. The boy or girl that is not too bookish has a chance to learn something that will aid in the life process. There is shorthand and typewriting for those who are destined for office service. Training in the operation of an auto is common.

In these later years those with distinctive ability in the sciences are selected for a speed-up course, for the government laboratories are looking for such young people. Maine was one of the first five high schools in the country to offer a course in the Russian language.

On the other hand, provision is made for the training of the slightly retarded. At the present time two teachers give their whole time to these young people.

In Park Ridge, as we have noted, we now have a school for those who are too retarded for the high school teachers to take on. There are ten counsellors for those who may become delinquent or who fall behind in their studies for special reasons. These counselling services save for the community many who might in the end become enemies of society.

The development of the largest evening school in Illinois was definitely due to the leadership of Einar Anderson, one of the conspicuous teachers of the staff through the years. During the season of 1958-59, under the leadership of Alexander Kruzel, it reached an enrollment of over five thousand. The evening program includes a lecture course which sells out each winter and fills an auditorium of fifteen hundred. The courses include many subjects including modern languages, dancing, shop, Bible and others.

Mr. Himel was an unusually colorful individual. He was married to a Cuban lady, daughter of A. Mora, who was a former cigar wholesaler. His home for many years was next door to what is now the Tally-ho restaurant. Though a mathematician, Mr. Himel was also a poet. He experimented with some Bible courses in high school when a local minister goaded him with teaching his pupils all about the Greek gods but nothing about the literature which has built our Anglo-Saxon civilization. This was before a certain Supreme Court decision.

He was succeeded by Thomas Foukes and then by Calvin Legg. Mr. Foukes served for six years. After Mr. Legg, came Frank Holmes whose term of service was six years. Harry Anderson took charge in 1949, and his service was a very conspicuous one. He secured for his school bond issues that made possible two new plants for Maine. Maine West was opened the autumn of 1959 on the southwest side of Des Plaines. When needed, Park Ridge will get a plant located on the southwest corner of their city. During the year of 1958-59 there has been an enrollment right around the five thousand mark all year. Dr. Wiltse, of Grand Island, Neb., took over the leadership in 1960, when Mr. Anderson went into retirement.

Maine is proud of its athletic record, and has fine equipment for the development of the bodies of the students. It has had a fair number of good football years, and its swimming record is excellent.

At spring vacation time there is often a tour of some spot of historic interest in the East. Debating teams make trips and win honor for their alma mater. Some Maine students have by competitive examination won some fine scholarships in the big universities. A list of students that have come to positions of large influence out in the world would require more than an ordinary chapter.

The music department has won much recognition. One of the oldest teachers in this department, and a very able one, was "Al" Harley, well known in many circles outside the high school, and long-time leader of song in the Park Ridge Kiwanis Club.

Fifty years ago it was quite exceptional to go to high school. Now nearly every young person goes. This is not true all over the United States. Perhaps all too many parents are interested in a high school education because of its commercial value, but the community through a PTA at high school learns more and more that education makes a great contribution to the joy of living.

The story of depression days for the high school closely parallels the story already written of the grade schools. Delinquent taxes did the same things to high school teachers. The same remedies were applied, which was to sell tax anticipation warrants. This lost tax money by reason of the interest paid, but it saved the school. Head and front in this campaign was the vigorous Charles Himel, courageous, loyal and religious to the every core.

An old brochure of 1942 states that the principals before Mr. Himel were William M. Smyser, 1902 to 1907; Charles S. Stewart, 1902 to 1913; Horace Howard, 1913 to 1914; I. A. Wilson, 1914 to 1915. The brochure, issued in 1942 lists the teachers of fifteen years service still on the faculty as Edward J. Braun, Grace Chapman, Thomas R. Foulkes, Sam C. Marzulo, Clifford B. May, Earle M. North, Elizabeth Parolini and Marie Scheinpflug. The list of citizens who have served on the board up to this time is also included, and has in it many well-known names.

Chapter 28

The Country Club's Role

SURELY no one would wonder that we should include the Country Club among the forces giving Park Ridge character. That would be true of some clubs, but not of this one. So we proceed with the story of Park Ridge Country club as an important agency in giving our city character.

From early days there was a farm on the land now occupied by the club. This farm was first owned by Colonel Silas Robb. It was he, as we have noted, who bought the logs that were used in the first Congregational meeting house. What he did with these logs does not appear in the records. At a later stage, when there was a village, his farm was called Robb's park, not because the land belonged to the city, but it had some trees and a pond that made it serve.

Prior to 1907, Park Ridge had a tennis club, but the members of this club found the game pretty strenuous with advancing years, so they began to consider taking up golf. It is recorded in one of our sources that in 1907 the old tennis club leased from Mrs. Eliza J. Bell the Robb farm for $500 a year. The members of the club cut down the corn stalks, and began the task of making a golf course out of a farm. The next step was the purchase of this land. On November 16, 1911, it was voted to buy the Robb farm for $300 an acre. The officers that participated in this purchase were E. E. Emerich, president; S. J. Knowles, vice president; C. J. Biggert, secretary; and G. D. Stebbings, treasurer.

Now came the job of making a golf course out of a farm. There was no certain water supply and no sewer. This meant the greens could not be kept up in the dry summers, and the surplus water could not be disposed of in the spring. Tom Bendelow, a man from Aberdeen, was the first architect to work on the project.

When Walter Raymer became president in 1915, he induced the club to borrow $45,000. Mr. Raymer was a banker, but he led his club to place a second mortgage on the property and the credit of the organization was stretched to the limit. More land was purchased, and a new architect, Frank Langford, was employed to lay out a course. So now the land could be put to some use, though there was yet much to be done.

The club acquired a member who loved birds more than he did golf. Frank Craig erected 300 bird houses in various parts of the property and planted trees and bushes at various places. The job was so outstanding that the president of the American Audubon Society visited the

club to observe what had been done and to make suggestions for further operations.

It is noteworthy that the celebrated architect Frank Lloyd Wright drew the plans that changed the old farm house into a lovely club house. This lasted until the erection of the commodious building that is now in use.

The next windfall the club had was a gift of five thousand dollars by Mrs. Edward L. Wickwire to be used in digging a well and securing a sewer outlet to the Des Plaines River. A cement bottom was placed in the old pond.

As the course improved in quality, many visitors from other clubs played out here. It is recorded that 2,500 visitors from other clubs played here during a period of six years. How many people moved to Park Ridge because of the golf course we can never know, but these were substantial citizens who erected here some of our very finest homes. The club has many members who never moved here, but all the members were conscious of the fact that the good name of Park Ridge had much to do with the value of their property. This led to a lot of conversation with regard to the development of our community. From informal conferences on the club verandas may have come many good ideas for making Park Ridge the distinctive city that it is.

When the new club building was erected, it was easily the most commodious place for a wedding reception and for many other social events that could be found in the community. Thus the place was of use to many others than its members on special occasions.

By this time the club had many members who could no longer follow a golf ball around the course. The problems of many oldsters were solved by the fellowship of the club social rooms.

With more than sixty various clubs and organizations, it is apparent that Park Ridge is made up of many socially-minded people. It would not be possible to describe in detail all of them. We may mention, however, among the very old organizations, the Garden Club. In the days of auld lang syne this organization carried flowers to the railroad station every morning where the flowers were taken free of cost to the deep city to be distributed by The Flower Mission in Chicago. Once more Park Ridge had a very effective way of publicizing her opportunities, though this was not the motive of the mission. To get out of the deep city where one could raise his own flowers became the goal of many of the less fortunate.

This club as it exists today sells plants around Memorial Day and encourages the citizens to develop beautiful front yards. Behind many a house is a patio that has wonderful charm.

About this time in Park Ridge's history a number of new organizations were formed. The old informal fellowship of villagers was being superseded by the association of kindred minds about some common interest. It is in this era that the children's organizations were formed with the adults that have these in charge. There were fewer card clubs and more associations that had social uplift interest or which followed

some intellectual pursuit. This was doubtless due to the fact that many hundreds of new people were in town with many new interests.

Park Ridge has remained part village and part metropolitan. If someone on the street dies, the neighbors know about it and carry in baskets of food and subscribe for the purchase of flowers. This is of the village mores. But one does not often call on a new neighbor. One waits to meet him at church or in some community organization. This is of the metropolitan mores. The multitude of organizations is another manifestation of the social spirit which has always marked the community.

Chapter 29

Our Children Are Organized

THE BOY SCOUTS were organized in Park Ridge about 1921. Charles Kates was the first Scoutmaster. The following year, Troop number two was organized at Community Church. The friendly rivalry of these two troops has led to the examination of records. Troop one lost its charter once, so Troop two claims to be the oldest one of continuous history. Troop one was Methodist sponsored.

America seems to have suddenly become aware of the need of making children a community asset. Between 1910 and 1912 three organizations that now enroll millions of children came into being. The first of these was the Boy Scouts, and this was imported from England, but went through a lot of transformation after it reached America. The next to appear was the Campfire Girls and almost simultaneously the Girl Scouts, who remember every year Juliette Lowe as their founder. Somewhat later the rural youth were gathered in their 4-H clubs. The 4-H means Head, Hand, Heart and Health. The Boy Scouts have an oath and the Scout Laws which are a code of ethics. Their motto is "Be Prepared." The Campfire Girls have their code of ethics, as do the Girl Scouts. It is beyond the scope of this chapter to study and compare these.

Features of all three were an effort to appreciate the outdoor life of America. A Girl Scout is a very different creature from the girl of a hundred years ago who expressed her femininity by fainting. Perhaps a previous generation would call these girls "tom-boys," for they would not be afraid to climb trees! But they grow up into healthier and more competent women.

Each of these organizations has older and younger groups, for in the world of the child the pre-adolescent and the adolescent have no more to do with each other than do the Jews and the Samaritans. There are Cubs and Explorers among the boys, and there are Brownies among the Girls Scouts. There must be adult leaders for all these groups and after awhile training schools and organization for the whole movement. The Boy Scout movement has sponsoring institutions like churches and luncheon clubs, but the girls do not, though they often meet in churches.

Troop two honors several men for long terms of service as Scoutmasters. Under these leaders the troop often achieved front rank among the troops of the district. There was Charles Koelling who later lost a leg in a piece of Park Ridge machinery, and could not hike any more. And there was Charles Sykora who was much more than a drillmaster, as some Scoutmasters are. William Kratt was a fine combination of ethical teacher and outdoor leader. Paul Loeffler gave the troop great espirit de corps. Under these men, the boys often performed

services of benefit to the community. They could undergo hardship, too, as they did the zero night they slept in tents on the newly purchased Noyes property.

Park Ridge became a part of the Northwest district in Scouting and the leaders of this district were George Landane, Otto Nimtz, Donald Tyger, Stanley Huntington and quite lately Frank Newton.

Stanley Huntington served from 1943 to 1957. The district had in 1943, 1650 Scouts; in 1957 it had 9500. These figures speak for themselves. It was in this era that the district acquired a camp at Wild Rose, Wisconsin, and equipped it to serve 100 boys at a time. Later it was enlarged to hold 250 boys. The financing of this large project was a noteworthy achievement. In 1958 a Scout office property was dedicated on Dempster street. A feature of it is a memorial to Raymond Mancinelli who died of leukemia the previous year. He was an Eagle Scout. It is impossible within our space limits to give praise to individuals and organization who have changed the life of youth in Park Ridge in forty years more than any one can realize.

An interesting figure among the Campfire girls in the early years was Bessie Hayles. We note that her group of girls thirty years ago had a penchant for providing drinking fountains. They put one in the old Public Library, and another in Hodges Park. They put a sign board on the front of Community Church triangle as they used this place for their meetings. They have a custom of carrying May Day flowers to shut-ins and people that they wish to honor.

Recent leaders among them include the names of Mrs. Oscar Anderson and Mrs. James Cole.

The Girls Scouts are now more numerous than the Campfire Girls and have an office and secretary. They have cooperated with Campfire for several years in an annual drive for funds with which the two organizations manage to carry on certain activities. The Boys Scouts had a separate drive. Now all of these are brought together in one community drive for these and other interests, and is called the United Fund.

These three organizations by no means do all the work for children of the community. As already recorded, the churches prior to 1925 were busy building gymnasia when the public schools took over this field, and hired directors, which the churches were not able to do. But the churches did not go out of the recreation field. Some churches that fifty years ago preached against dancing, now carried on dances in their social rooms. One hears of junkets to the city to study neighborhoods, of retreats which are partly spiritual enterprises and partly recreational. Public school recreation is now well directed. The Park Board on a week-day evening had thousands of children swimming, playing ball, and engaged in other recreation. The Y.M.C.A. is not primarily a children's organization, but it adds to these services. The movie house is to be counted among the agencies of recreation for children.

There are those who now raise the question, Have we overdone it? It is not the function of the historian to answer questions like this. We leave it to the educators, to the ministers, and perhaps to the physicians to answer. But the historian must record that the children of today

are better mannered and healthier, though a few have fallen into the evil ways of the delinquent. This will be discussed as we tell the story of our law enforcement agencies.

The home life of the suburban community is a different thing than it once was. The farm boy worked by the side of his father until he reached maturity, and was a son spiritually as well as physically. In these days a large number of the fathers travel constantly in their business, and have but little time for their children. Some of them are conscientious and reserve their Sunday afternoons and evening for their children, refusing all other social obligations. There are some who follow their children into police court to learn of some scandalous episode that leaves a blot on the family record.

Ten years ago the needs of the retarded children of the community were recognized, and classes were formed for them to teach them arts and crafts, and to give them fellowship outside their homes. These classes met in the Methodist and Community Churches. Prominent among the workers in this enterprise were Mrs. John Thomson, ably assisted by Mrs. Betty Aseltine. This service was so much appreciated that in 1958 the community provided funds to purchase the Legion Hall on Grace street as a school building.

Chapter 30

Park Ridge Gets a Bank

UP UNTIL November, 1908, Park Ridge had no bank. Transactions had to be in cash for the most part. At that time a kind of private bank came into being. W. G. and S. H. Barrows had a lumber and coal business. They began accepting deposits, and these soon became very numerous so they had to study the legal incorporation of a bank. They sought out Park Ridge's enterprising young attorney, Fred I. Gillick, who was also a real estate man.

This, and what follows, is narrated in a booklet, issued by the Park Ridge State Bank, in connection with the opening of their new building Sept. 12, 1914. The booklet that came into the hands of the writer is the property of Henry C. Setzler, who grew up in Park Ridge on Belleplaine Avenue, but now lives at Wonder Lake. It may be that other copies of this booklet are in the homes of old-timers around town. One of these should be in our Public Library.

The booklet not only records the early history of the Bank, but has a two thousand word history of Park Ridge. This history has been checked with other sources of information about the early days and is found to be consistent with these. It provides two or three bits of information that are not available elsewhere.

The newly incorporated bank had for president Stanley H. Barrows, W. G. Barrows having retired from the business. Stanley H. Barrows is still alive, and resides at 3831 Mozart Street, Chicago, in a home for the elderly. Fred I. Gillick was vice president; he is deceased. Edward J. Schumacher was cashier. Other directors were Fred Mau, F. C. Jorgeson, E. Buettner, S. H. Holbrook, Earnest Koelper, Dr. A. J. Buchheit and Charles S. Castle. The capital stock was $25,000 and the surplus, $5,000.

At the end of the first year, the bank moved into the Gillick building on Main street, and half of what is now the Gillick real estate office was the bank space. This soon proved inadequate, so the erection of a bank building at the corner of Prospect street and the Highway was begun. In November, 1910, the stock in the enterprise was all sold and paid for, and the first meeting of the stockholders was called. On January 2, 1911, they really began business as a state bank.

We are still able to see this bank building, though not on its former location. When the Pickwick Theater was built, the bank building was moved to the rear of the lot where it stands today near the Jewel food market, and now faces the highway. Just looking at it, you would hardly guess how well built this edifice is. Let the booklet speak on this

point for a little while: "The construction of the building is thoroughly fireproof, being of cement and steel, with tile partitions and a specially constructed roof. The exterior is constructed with cement base, terra-cotta sub-base, and terra-cotta cornice and ornaments. Satin texture bricks have been used for front columns, exterior, front, side, and rear walls. Inside walls and front banking rooms, columns and pilasters are of Roman pressed brick. The floor is constructed of imported Promenade tile, laid in black mortar joints, making the banking room most attractive, cool and sanitary."

A lot of space is given in the booklet to the description of the Safe Deposit Vault. The villagers must have been impressed with the impossibility of any burglar ever getting access to their money. This is the way the vault is described: "The vault proper comprises six separate rooms—a steel lined cash vault, a day book vault, two storage vaults for old records, a storage vault for silverware, trunks and bulky packages of value, and the safety deposit vault which contains space that will accommodate nearly 4,000 safe deposit boxes of various sizes. These boxes are designed to meet the needs of individuals, firms and corporations. The massive vault door weighing 5½ tons, which with the vestibule weighs over 7½ tons, is scientifically constructed of layers of armor and chrome steel tempered to different degrees of hardness so that it is absolutely impossible to penetrate them by drill or flame. Although of great weight, it is adjusted with ball bearings so that a child can move it. This door is locked and secured by 24 cold rolled steel bolts, each two inches in diameter. The sheering value, or holding power, of each bolt is 447,000 pounds, or over 5,000 tons for the twenty-four bolts." That should have made the villagers feel that their money was safe!

This is about the time when the advertising history of Park Ridge was published so we might take a look at the merchants who would use this wonderful new bank. By this time John Burkitt had come in from Arlington Heights and opened up his Studebaker agency. More of this later. H. C. Miller was selling tires. This must have been good business, for a tire lasted only 5,000 miles those days. R. L. Phelps had a hardware store at 15 South Prospect. The Lewis Perkins Express business was going, and he announced both horse and auto livery. Claude E. Murphy was a general contractor, at which vocation he continued many years. Charles Kobow ran a food mart, as we would say, over on the highway. Fred C. Stagg had a department store with both groceries and dry goods. Wm. Robinson, still living, made candies at 12 Prospect Street. L. S. Wintersteen ran a drug store which was also the town's loafing place. Paul Angebauer sold fresh and salt meats. E. B. Mabee ran a lunch room for a long time on Main street. The green houses and nurseries were numerous so the village was already beauty conscious as we shall see in another study. Arthur C. Tunsberg grew hot house mint, chervil, and taragon at 415 West Elm. He was soon to become an alderman.

Going back to the story of the bank, it was a trusted institution until the days of the big depression. At the moment we do not have the exact date of its closing, but this may have been in 1930. Like many

another bank, it was really solvent, but when a run starts, few banks can survive. The bank in Edison Park voluntarily paid off its depositors in full. The Park Ridge bank finally paid about 85% which was a pretty good story for those times. At the time of the closing Martin Appelt was cashier. The bank failure meant that he left Park Ridge to live in Chicago. He is now deceased, though his widow lives in West Bend, Wisconsin. He and his fellow bank officers all lost a good deal of money, for they were under the law liable for twice their stock holdings.

By this time there were other banks in Park Ridge, among them the very young Citizen's Bank which now survives, and is our leading bank. Within a year we have had a new bank open on Talcott Road, and Prospect, which has become a national bank.

Chapter 31

Park Ridge Became Literate

THE JOB of an historian is not just to trace external events, but to find out how the character of a community has been shaped. People who move to this community find among us a lot of interest in books. How did a pioneer community get this way?

Without doubt many of the people that settled here in the earliest days brought with them a few books that were precious to them. However, the hardships of pioneer life would prevent their doing much reading. The struggle for physical survival was too hard. They were more apt to talk with their neighbors about the best way to cure meat, than about the poems of Longfellow. The opening of the grade schools would arouse nostalgic feelings about books, but did not introduce them to the big ideas that were shaking the world.

It is after the opening of the new century that we learn of a magazine club. Each family subscribed to one magazine, and the magazines were passed around. We know that when the Carpenters came to town, they were a center for literary interest. They had several hundred books. They were the kind of people that shared the good things of life, so it is likely that these books were loaned. At last the Carpenter books found their way into the Public Library.

The Park Ridge Woman's Club took the initiative in 1910 that led to the organization of the Park Ridge Public Library. This club began as the Tuesday Literary Club in 1894. Its first president was Mrs. Z. D. Root, and for a number of years the club met in her home. In 1901 the name was changed to the Park Ridge Woman's Club. It is still in active operation and is affiliated with the Illinois Federation of Woman's Clubs and the General Federation.

A committee composed of women from this club, Mrs. Laura A. Root, Mrs. Clara E. Miller, Mrs. Charles A. Boening, Mrs. Grace A. Becken, and Mrs. Mildred H. Davis were the moving spirits that brought the library into being. Its first board meeting was in the home of Mrs. J. H. Collins June 10, 1910. Robert Baird presided; Mrs. Boening became secretary; and Mrs. Miller, treasurer. The committee instructed Mrs. Boening to write Andrew Carnegie for funds to erect a library building. At this meeting they asked the city clerk for notification of their appointment as members of the library board.

Before a building was erected, a room was rented over the Snyder and Leeds store on the highway, next to the location later secured for a building site. At the beginning the library was kept open by voluntary help.

November 4, 1912, a building committee was appointed, composed of John Paulding, J. A. Schulkins, and J. W. Pattison, who selected as architect for a new building, Pond and Pond. Mr. Paulding was very active in pushing the library cause. The board had owned property at the corner of Grant and Prospect, but this was exchanged for the site at Northwest Highway and Prospect.

Mr. Carnegie at first gave five thousand dollars for the new building, but this was inadequate so the amount was increased to $7,500. But a library without books is not very useful, so May 5, 1913, the George B. Carpenter estate presented the library with a thousand volumes, and the south room of the library was named the George B. Carpenter room. Mrs. Walter B. Clute designed the book plates, and J. W. Reed printed them. The Congregational Church gave two hundred and fifty volumes; Miss Penny, one hundred and fifty; and Stewart Walpole, two hundred. Many smaller donations of books were received, so the new library building was in business.

In December, 1942, at the suggestion of A. W. Cavanaugh, president of the board, an extension committee was formed to get funds for necessary juvenile and reference books. A catalogue of books was printed. This was a long time before the formation of the Friends of the Library.

Miss Ruth Colman, daughter of W. H. Colman, was the first paid librarian. She was a wide reader, and knew the books in her custody. After leaving this position, she went to the staff of the library of Northwestern University where she served until the time of her demise. On her resignation, she was succeeded by Miss Frances Holbrook. Miss Holbrook had training in Boston and through the years has attended library conventions in various parts of the country, thus keeping in touch with the latest ideas in library administration. She was succeeded as head librarian by Carl Johnson, who came to Park Ridge in 1958. She then served as reference librarian, and as head librarian ad interim.

The present library on the site of the old Central School building was dedicated January 12, 1958, with the writer, who had served on the library board more than twenty years, making the principal address.

Now we must go back in our story. For a long time the library board had known that the old building was inadequate. It was erected for a city of three thousand people. It still served when we had twenty thousand, which made it impossible to keep up with the new books and journals. The city kept spending its tax money for other projects than a library. The Friends of the Library was organized in 1945, and was committed to a new library. Bessie Hayles and Clyde Bedell did much to give it shape. When it got a thousand dues-paying members, the library board felt that with this support they might hope to secure approval of a bond issue. This was not done without controversy, but at last the new building was on the drawing boards. W. F. McCaughey, who has designed many of our best buildings, gave the new building its artistic touch, assisted by Charles B. Rowe.

Now the churches began to establish libraries on special subjects. At the passing of Ida Kinsey Jordan, minister's wife, in 1950, the

Women's Circle of Community Church opened a Church Library in her name. This library has continued to grow, and now has its own room in the church property. St. Paul-of-the-Cross Church now has a library in their new edifice. One by one the churches are circulating books of special interest.

Twenty-five years ago the Women's Circle of Community Church began to have an annual book day with a survey of the season's leading books. This is their most largely attended program. The city has book clubs that meet in homes and women reading the same books discuss them. Professional book-talkers bring large numbers to local restaurants. All of this indicates the process by which Park Ridge has become an unusually literate community with a citizenry that is very book-minded. Such citizens find fellowship in our great big world of ideas.

Chapter 32

City Government Is Adopted

IN A meeting of old-timers at the Public Library recently, the question was raised, "Why did Park Ridge abandon village government and adopt city government?" No one seemed to be able to answer, though some present must have voted for this change. This happened in 1910 when the city had a population of 2009. During the previous ten years the community had grown from 1340 which meant that there were in Park Ridge a good many newcomers.

Among these was William H. Malone, who had moved here from the near north side of Chicago. He soon became a powerful figure in local politics. He had gifts of political oratory that were outstanding. For a decade or more big political rallies were held every spring. These were attended with invective and animosity. Albert Verity, our fourth mayor, remembers that once two churchmen, actuated by political heat, used fists to establish the right doctrine of city government. He refuses to give the names of these saints, or the churches to which they belonged.

The first mayor was the town's leading dentist, Dr. A. J. Buchheit, who still lives here in a good state of health. He served only one year when William H. Malone was elected, and he served two years. He was on the side of public improvements. It is said that at that time there was only one sewer in Park Ridge, the one that went down Touhy Avenue into the Des Plaines River. The next mayor was Bruce W. Durham, a solid businessman who served for two years. We neglected to say that when Mr. Malone was elected, he was opposed by Albert Verity, member of a plumbing firm on the west side of Chicago in which father and son served the public for a hundred years before going out of business.

In 1915, William H. Malone and Albert Verity confronted each other again in the political ring, and this time Verity won. He carried on for two years to be succeeded by Wm. L. Springer in 1917.

At this time we may complete the list of Park Ridge mayors, with the date of their election. They are: A. M. Sick, 1919; C. H. Tharp, 1921; Leslie Cole, 1923; John H. Anderson, 1925; Robert E. McLain, 1929; William E. McKee, 1931; Arthur L. Jones, 1935; James D. Tierney, 1939; Alfred P. Haake, 1945; Fred Haack, Jr., 1953; and Raymond Hollis, 1957. It will be seen that the longest period of service was that of Dr. Haake, who also was the orator type of mayor, but who managed to live in our political situation without arousing the feelings of an earlier era. He was for many years a public relations man for General Motors, and he wrote and published a book on economics in his period as mayor. In these days Park Ridge reached some political maturity.

Albert Verity, soon to celebrate his 63rd wedding anniversary, and in excellent health, is secretary of the Masonic lodge, which is no small job in so large a lodge. He relates with some gusto the humiliation that came to him as mayor. The water supply of the town had come for a long time from a deep artesian well. The pump had to be repaired. Under a plumber mayor, the pump dropped to the bottom of the well, and it took a long time to recover it! There were cisterns in the town, but little safe drinking water that did not come from the city. For a while there was little water for any purpose, either to drink or to use for a bath. Our resourceful plumber got a big hose and connected with Chicago water at the city limits. This worked until a sub-zero snap froze up the hose. Then the town once more had little water. Finally the pump was recovered and repaired, and once more Park Ridge had its perfectly pure water whose only bad quality was that it was so "hard." The women preferred to pump water out of the cisterns for the family wash. This was the beginning of mixing Chicago water with our artesian water. Many other suburbs are still wrestling with a water problem. Park Ridge got more and more of its water from Lake Michigan. This meant an abundant supply.

The city hall was in the peculiar building that was erected over the pumping station at Prospect and Touhy. Here for many years the city affairs were considered by the aldermen until the former George B. Carptenter home on the highway became the city hall. An auxiliary building on Meachem Avenue including the fire station, provided a council chamber for a while.

At the six points in the long ago there was a traffic circle, and it bore the sign "Fifteen miles." On day Sam Davis came up to it with his horse and buggy and said, "I don't think I can make it!" This was the speed limit for automobiles.

Some of the old-timers of that period still live in Park Ridge, and they have some curious memories. She who was Gertrude Sunderman, remembers going out in the late spring with her girl friends to swampy holes, of which there were several, and going swimming. She now supervises the accounting department of Burkitt's Service Station, and we call her Mrs. Ruby.

Our ex-mayor Verity asserts that though the sidewalks in his day were made of board, they were in a good state of repair. There are old-timers who have another report than this. They assert that in the spring the boys would take the boards, and make rafts to travel about town. This is an indication of the difficulty of securing accurate facts from ancient history.

Fortunate is the community which has stalwart leaders. Few of the leaders of Park Ridge have served various causes with more fidelity than did Frederick C. Jorgeson. He was born in Denmark, April 28, 1855, and came to Park Ridge in 1884. He served his beloved Methodist Church in just about every capacity possible. He served the community. He was on the school board for thirty years, and he was on the library board for a while and on the village board. He was generous with both money and time. In all this he was ably assisted by his wife Emily who shared fully his various interests.

The Methodist Church has had fifty ministers in a hundred years, but one about this period had a five year pastorate, Rev. R. H. Pate who was minister from 1902 to 1907. The minister's son, R. M. Pate, married Miss Grace Jorgeson.

The History of Park Ridge by Community Women's Circle recounts that in the decade this side of 1890, the town had a Sunday evening cinch club which had among its members couples by the names of Welles, Penny, Stevenson, Stockdale, Cochran, Stanton, Davis and Phillipson. These were counted to be among the more prosperous ones of the population of that day.

Chapter 33

The Catholics Discover Park Ridge

SIXTY YEARS ago there were but a handful of Roman Catholics in Park Ridge, and they had to go to Des Plaines to church. Now two great edifices with parochial schools attached bear witness to the strength of this religious group in the community. Community Church Circle's history has a list of the Catholics of sixty years ago, giving only family names which were Flynn, Ratighans, Connelly, Carpenter, Weber, Murphy, Lochner, Kemp, Kennedy, Schiessle, Bauer, Costello, Coleman and Greiwess. The Carpenter family was not the one that lived in the building now used for a city hall, but Silas Carpenter.

St. Vincent's Foundling Asylum, of Chicago, came here before there was a church. They first rented a large frame residence on North School Street, the property of Charles Paine, as summer home for children. The next year Mrs. Mary Butler donated the piece of land which the citizens of this generation remember as St. Vincent's home. It was east of Washington Street, and extended from our present Touhy Avenue to South Northwest Highway. At a cost of fourteen thousand dollars, the brick building was erected which was in use until 1959. To this institution a priest came every Sunday to say mass, and to minister to the religious needs of the community. This building was recently sold and imposing office buildings have been erected.

In 1903, the Passionist Fathers, with the approval of the Rt. Rev. Archbishop Quigley, founded what we call "the monastery," at the intersection of Harlem Avenue and Talcott. Here a frame church was erected which was for some time to serve the religious needs of Norwood Park, Edison Park, Park Ridge, and Niles. This was dedicated in 1904. A list of priests that served here includes the names of Fathers Felix Ward, Albert Phelan, Sebastian Ochsenreiter, Philip Birk, Peter Hanley and Michael Klinzing.

On June 20, 1911, an historic meeting was held in the home of A. Susen, in Park Ridge. The Rev. Father Jerome Reuterman, C.P., a provincial of the western province of the Passionist order, addressed a meeting of the parishioners and told them that the Archbishop had created a separate parish in Park Ridge. They would no longer need to go to Des Plaines or to Norwood Park to church. The following Sunday mass was celebrated in Music Hall. At this time a lot 66 x 150 feet was selected on which the frame building was erected that Park Ridge was to know for about forty years as the "Catholic Church." Anthony Susen, proprietor of the Phoenix Steam Dye House, of Chicago, donated the lot and an additional five hundred dollars to start a building fund. His

generosity was followed by very substantial support from M. Schiessle and Silas B. Carpenter, who installed the furnaces.

The new church had to have a name, so they decided to call it "St. Paul-of-the-Cross," in honor of an Italian saint who founded the Passionist order. He was born at Ovada, near Genoa, Italy, in 1694 and died in 1775. He was canonized in 1869 by Pope Pius IX. The first priest to be located here was Father Augustine Scannell, C.P., to be succeeded by Father Nawn, who is still remembered with much affection by the older Catholics. Then came Father Smith, who was to serve here until his death more than thirty years later.

Father Smith drew to his church ever more people, as the city grew. He was here in the population explosion. He died in 1956 after a long and faithful ministry. It was at the end of his term of service that the great new sanctuary was erected.

This beautiful Romanesque church is the largest in Park Ridge, if one counts the spacious social rooms. The altar has some precious Italian marble, and on the walls the stations of the cross are beautiful works of art. The church now has a library where Catholic books are circulated to all comers.

But even this great sanctuary was not able to care for the Catholics that came to Park Ridge, so a new parish was started on the south side which was placed in the charge of Father Smith's long time assistant, Father Dowling. The new church was called "Mary Seat of Wisdom." This church has large seating capacity and several masses on Sunday. Attached to it is a large parochial school.

The Catholic laymen of the community through the years have often been of great significance to the development of Park Ridge. Every kind of church has the narrow kind, and the tolerant. Park Ridge will long remember "Mike" Sullivan, for many years our genial postmaster, the two Conleys who have given their best as physicians to serve a community, and "Bill Bowes." Many more names should go into such a list. These leaders lived with their neighbors in generous cooperation.

If the Protestant churches were not also mushrooming, they might have felt a little alarm over the idea that "Park Ridge is going Catholic." If they took a look at the glacial movements of population in Chicago, they would understand. For more than a generation Park Ridge has been within two miles of the largest Polish city in all the world, the northwest side of Chicago. Poles and Irish have a way of mixing patriotism and religion, so most Poles are staunch Catholics, though the Poles now have a church not in communion with Rome.

Relatively few Poles have moved to Park Ridge. Why? Has property been too high, or didn't they like a dry town? Anyway, this glacial movement of population took another direction. So not very many of our Catholics are Polish. Ahead of the Poles were the Germans, and approximately half of them are Catholic, especially those from south Germany. We have many Catholic Germans here. The Irish have a solid district on the southwest side of Chicago, but they seem to be less chained to a spot. The arrival of Italian Catholics is spotty. They do not move in any glacial fashion, for they are behind the Poles.

However one looks at the population map of greater Chicago, one is bound to come to the conclusion that there will be great Catholic churches in Park Ridge throughout the foreseeable future, but that will not mean the death of the Protestant churches. They must live together through the coming years, we trust in good-will.

The historian must mention that once we had a unit of the Ku Klux Klan in Park Ridge, which tried to convince the citizens that Catholic Churches were full of guns against the day when a new St. Bartholomew's Massacre would break out in America. Some of our ministers were told that they could make more money than they had ever had in their lives, if they would join up. The writer does not believe that any of our ministers ever did. In our city now lives a man who devotes his life to good-will in the religious camp. He is Dr. Edward G. Olsen, educational director of the Conference of Christians and Jews. It is a national organization that stands squarely across the path of the organizations of intolerance. With this organization Catholics, Protestants, and Jews cooperate. The fruit of their labors is better feeling in all American communities touched by its influence.

Chapter 34

Fire Protection Increases

WHEN OUR community was a village there was no organized protection against fire. It seems to have come first about 1899 when on July 14, C. O. Lowman was made fire chief. The village had about thirteen hundred people at that time. No department of city service is so glamorous as the fighting of fire. The noisy trucks rolling through the streets even today bring an unwieldy crowd of citizens to watch the operation. Every little boy some time or other thinks he wants to be a fireman. Therefore the story of fire-fighting in Park Ridge should be interesting.

Harry Ascher has done a lot of work around the city hall and offers some information. His wife is of three generations of Park Ridge ancestry and what he does not know, she tells him. "What was the biggest fire Park Ridge ever had?" He replied, "The most dangerous fire we ever had was the burning of the Simpson home in the early twenties." On this site on S. Prospect Street now stands an office building, across from the post office. One stormy night in the early twenties, the residence was probably hit by lightning. It contained tanks of oil now coming into use for heating purposes. Ascher said the building literally exploded. He found himself in the basement mixed up with glass and steel girders. His only injuries were glass cuts. He thinks he still carries a bit of Simpson glass in one finger. John Burkitt was on the fire squad then, and his cap was blown off his head, never to be found again. One man had a head injury that was serious. But Ascher boasts that never in the history of the community has a fire resulted in loss of life.

Another big fire was the burning of the old Central School building also in the twenties. We have already noted that the loss of this building left the community with only the Grant Place School. Churches and halls became places of study for the children until a new building was erected on what is now the site of our public library. There are vivid descriptions of what the old school looked like the next morning.

Two lumber yards have burned through the years and these make a very spectacular blaze, though not dangerous like the destruction of buildings. In the early fifties we had two fires that would have been serious if they had gotten out of hand. "Bill" Robinson's building on Prospect street was gutted by fire, which put our Chinese fellow-citizen out of business for a while as well as an ice cream parlor downstairs. It had a lot of history for it had served as a community hall, and was the home, at one time of the Masonic lodge. Another was the destruc-

tion of the Lew Perkins warehouse on Fairview. This building was also historic, having housed our first electric power plant and a social hall.

For the fighting of these fires we needed water. The way Ascher remembers it, we were never quite without water. Even in the Verity administration the town had two wells and only one was blocked by a pump accident. He admits the pressure was low. So old-timers have variations of memory. Evidently the town was in peril those days.

About the time that city government was organized in Park Ridge, in 1910, the fire department was "reorganized." Had it become dormant? Were the members of it without remuneration, or paid by the call as they were for a long time afterwards? This does not appear. Anyway a reorganization occurred December 16, 1909, with William Kobow, a local merchant, as chief. He was followed by A. Mitchell, Fred C. Stagg, S. E. Tesch and C. Bruns.

The fire department was housed in the old city hall at the point of the triangle of Touhy and Northwest Highway where the water pumps are now concealed underground as well as the reservoirs of water. Then the present commodious firehouse on Meachem was erected, and modern equipment placed in it.

The service which a fire department renders was enlarged as time went on. If a citizen needs oxygen for a heart attack or other illness his family may telephone the fire department and they will be there pronto. Important fire prevention work is done. Frequent inspection of schools, churches, and other places of public assembly are made and orders are often given which may be enforced legally. A valuable publicity service has been rendered that leads citizens to be more careful of fire in their homes.

A community that has good fire protection has a lower insurance rate. It is likely that good fire protection pays off in dollars and cents. So the growing Park Ridge came into a new sense of security for there has never been a fire that spread to wipe out a lot of property as in some communities.

Some of our leading citizens have served on the fire department, leaving their places of business when the siren blew. Among these was "Hal" Porter, genial and public spirited undertaker, and Bert Hams, the baker who became city clerk and city treasurer and gave years of service. The League of Women Voters got out a booklet a few years ago which stated that the city had 21 volunteer firemen who were paid on call and no full-time men. This would not be true now; we find several at the fire station who are there all the time. At this time Norman Brown is chief, a man who has spent his entire life in the community. His side-line is a busy filling station at the intersection of Devon and Talcott.

A social event of importance every year is a party at the Country Club to which the citizens buy tickets, whether they dance or not. The proceeds of this party are put into a pension fund so that the men who risk their lives in community service may have some measure of security in their later years.

We have seen that after the Chicago fire of 1871 people began to leave "shack-town" as they called Chicago, which was built of wood, and came here where we made brick. Many of our houses were constructed of brick and were therefore more resistant to fire. That continues to the present day. That fact and the placing of buildings on wider lots than in Chicago contributes to security against destructive fires. Some fires have resulted from the burning of leaves and trash as in the case of the Perkins warehouse fire.

The fire department has the minutes of their organization from 1912 to 1919. From these we learn that Carl Brunst served for a long time as chief in that period. Other chiefs were Chester Lutz, Ralph Bishop, Jr., Joseph Rosentreter, George Duwell, Fred Stagg, and Mr. Tesch. The first full-time men came on the force in 1921. This compares with nine men now, who are on duty 24 hours and off duty 48, but subject to call. In addition there are fifteen more men who respond to call and are paid by call. Four auxiliaries are what we might call probationers hoping to become full-time members of the staff.

John Burkitt made the first motorized equipment out of an old Packard auto. What it was used for does not appear in the records. Now we have two thousand gallon a minute pumpers, one five hundred gallon a minute pumper, one 65 foot serial ladder on a truck with a thousand gallon pumper, one squad truck, and one fire department sedan.

Chapter 35

Masonry Comes to Park Ridge

IN OUR present day Park Ridge has a lodge of over six hundred Freemasons which owns a lodge home that includes the old Becken home on the site of the first house erected in the community. There are about 200 more Freemasons holding their membership outside our community but often visiting the local lodge. The organization permits only members at its regular meetings and is therefore said to be a "secret society." This secrecy has been much misunderstood by the public.

The Park Ridge lodge was organized in 1915 and first met in Robinson's Hall over the candy store that for many years was operated by William Robinson. Some years later the Masonic Temple Association bought the Becken home and expanded it to serve the needs of the lodge. It was not a great while afterwards that the Great Depression came, and for a while it looked as if the lodge would lose its property. However, a drive to give insurance policies for gifts to the lodge succeeded. The property is now clear of debt.

The activities of the organization are varied. There is a teaching that is partly dramatized and which forms the moral code of the order. The members are under obligation to behave toward each other in a brotherly way and to protect each other's families. There are social events from time to time in which family and friends often participate. The lodges of this order operate under a charter from the Grand Lodge, and they cooperate in works of mercy and relief. There is a children's home in LaGrange, and a home for the aged at Sullivan, Illinois.

The chief auxiliary of a masonic lodge is a chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, which is conducted by women, though men may join. One notes that in the local lodge hall are meetings of an Edison Park Lodge, and of certain bodies of the higher degrees, so the hall is in use a great many nights in the week and is rented to a church on Sunday.

The first grand lodge of Freemasons was organized in England in 1717. There are minutes of a lodge in Philadelphia in 1730. Benjamin Franklin early became a member of the order and was once grand master of Pennsylvania. Even in the later years of his life he attended the lodges of Paris, and he might justly be acclaimed the greatest leader early masonry had. George Washington, and many other of our leaders in revolutionary days, were members of the order.

It is well known that certain religious organizations do not allow their members to be Freemasons. The Roman Catholics have an article in the Catholic Encyclopedia (in our library) which explains their position. A full account of this controversy may be found in the story of

the labor guilds of the middle ages when masons were "operative" instead of "speculative." However, in the Protestant camp there has been some opposition also. Not all Lutherans oppose the order, but some synods do. The church of Alexander Dowie, at Zion City, once tried an exposé of the ritual, and these efforts were seconded by a clergyman in Wheaton.

However, many religious denominations have their clergy in the membership. Rev. John Hubbard was probably the most active Mason we have ever had in Park Ridge. He had the 33rd degree conferred on him. He travelled widely in behalf of the order. Many Methodist ministers and ministers of the Communtiy Church have been members.

The importance of the lodge to the community is that these men find in their fellowship in the lodge a mental stimulus and a renewal of their sense of security.

Many of the members belong to the Low Twelve Club, and when they pass on, their widows are provided with funds for their immediate needs. During the season the lodge has a monthly dinner which fills the dining room to capacity. The dinners are often cooked by the men and show a high degree of skill in the culinary art. After the dinner a program is given in the lodge hall, often of an educational nature.

Each autumn the lodge holds a memorial service for the members they have lost during the year. Sometimes trips are arranged for the members in order to witness degree work in other lodges, or perhaps they go to the annual Passion Play put on by Scottish Rite Masons in Bloomington.

The impression that Masons are anti-religious may be dispelled without divulging any of their "secrets." The application for membership contains an assertion of belief in God. On the altar is the holy Bible, and lodge cannot be opened without it. Those who have listened to the Masonic funeral ritual remember assertions of belief in personal immortality. It is true that a "blue" lodge may have in it Jews or Moslems, which means that the lodge has a broad base of religious tolerance. Some of the higher branches of the order are definitely committed to the Christian creed. However, no intelligent Mason proposes to make the order into a church. A preacher might pick holes in some of the religious teachings of the order, but he could equally well find errors in the theology of some other church. In general, Masonry may be counted as an influence on the side of religious tolerance.

The local chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star engages in many activities that engage the talent of Park Ridge women. They have a deep loyalty to their lovely home for aged members in Rockford. These women furnish leadership to a junior branch and have a concern for the appearance of the lodge hall. They also have a funeral ritual, and they sometimes go at great personal inconvenience to officiate at funerals. Perhaps even more than the men, they have a concern for members that fall into misfortune.

Park Ridge lodge of Masons is the largest in its district, and Hans Almgren of our city is the district deputy. He gives a great deal of time to lodge visitation.

The pictures of the past masters are to be found in the lodge hall, and in the order of the service they are as follows: Edgar Chesterman, Oscar E. Brooks, Hans C. Hansen, Otto W. Anderson, Harry B. Spangler, Albert H. Lauffs, Frank D. Parsons, Felix W. Trost, Donald W. Parsons, Joseph Judd Pope, Robert D. Pettet, Otto J. Hein, Owen E. Grigsby, Walter A. Day, Charles A. Heller, J. Horace Van Nice, George L. Scharringhausen, Ralph Schuettge, Albert B. Mills, James R. Lawrence, Albert Verity, Harry T. Singer, Richard A. Sundvahl, Arthur Madsen, Albert A. Anderson, Wm. W. Spangler, Walter H. Hoffman, Virgil Livingston, Oscar H. Goetz, W. B. Van Rensselaer, Lloyd T. Tollefson, F. Mervin Smith, Walter H. Lake, Jr., Lewis E. Pearce, William S. Verity, Earl E. Herzog, Carl A. Paine, Jr., Hans Almgren, Harry Olsen, Selden C. Brady, Jos. B. Argabrite, William J. Wheaton, John B. Mills, Stanley O. Merrill, Clyde Watson, and Taylor Smith. Paul H. Loeffler is next in line.

Masonry may be found in many parts of the world but has no world organization. Each state in America has an autonomous organization called a grand lodge which issues charters to the local lodges. Various organizations of the higher degrees have come into being.

Chapter 36

Lutherans Help Make Our City

SIX LUTHERAN churches may be found in 1959 within two miles of our railway station. Three of these belong to the Missouri synod. St. Luke's is of the United Lutheran type; the Edison Park church on our limits has a Norwegian background. It need not be wondered that there are so many Lutherans in Park Ridge for the Church Federation of Greater Chicago reports that one half of the Protestants of the northwest side are Lutherans. These are to be found in a number of different separate denominations, perhaps as many as 17, though pending consolidations may change this figure from time to time.

America has over three million Lutherans who are the sons of immigrants from various countries of North Europe. The people of Germany are divided between Catholic and Lutheran, but the Scandinavian countries are almost solidly Lutheran. When the immigrants from these countries came to America, they formed foreign language churches so they might worship in their accustomed languages. But all of these Lutherans subscribe to the Augsburg confession and use the Lutheran Shorter Catechism. What then hinders their union? The interpretation of the creed, and certain ethical attitudes.

The Missouri Synod, one of the most rapidly growing branches of Lutheranism, has traditionally used parochial schools for the instruction of their children, and St. Andrew's Church on Northwest Highway has a very good school, which is operated at considerable sacrifice by the membership of that church. However, Redeemer Church is in the same synod, though belonging to an English-speaking branch, and it makes no effort to set up a parochial school.

There is an historic opposition to Freemasonary, indeed to all secret societies, in the Missouri Synod churches. A man who joins one may be denied the holy communion until he gets out, which has occasioned a considerable leakage to this denomination. The Freemasons reciprocate by refusing to admit any one from a church that has rules against Freemasonary. The Missouri Synod ministers are not allowed to share a worship service with any other kind of minister, not even with a Lutheran of another synod.

The Germans formed a part of the pioneer settlement of Maine township, and the pioneers helped them to erect an edifice for worship in early days, which was not used long due to population changes. Then came the organization of St. Andrew's in 1909. This church organized a parochial school, and a worthy school building soon housed it. When they erected their sanctuary in 1957 with the aid of a local architect, it

became nationally famous as a model of the best that the modern movement in church building could do. Redeemer Church, with Pastor Lange in charge, soon afterwards led a movement that gave them a building of similar design.

The Canfield church has served the people of the Pennoyer school area, though it has had its own school. It early developed some recreational activities for its young people. It may be the oldest Lutheran church of the area.

The Norwegian Lutheran Church of Edison Park has many members in Park Ridge, not all of them Norwegians. Pastor Nasby is a scholar, and his writings may be found in various Christian journals.

St. Luke's Lutheran Church was formed on the initiative of a layman, Louis F. Mueller, who made a canavass of the city and reported to the denominational office that there were enough Lutherans here to form an English-speaking church. The first service was held October 25, 1914, in the edifice of the German Congregational Church on Third Street. The latter church had a short history, and was at this time dormant. Probably a good many of its members became members of the new church. Rev. John F. Seibert, D.D., missionary superintendent of the northern Illinois Synod, conducted the first worship service, and Rev. John Bramkamp preached. The following week the baby church began meeting in Robinson's hall on Prospect Street, where it continued for four years.

The Rev. Walter D. Spangler was graduated from the Lutheran Theological Seminary of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania the spring of 1915 and came here to be the pastor. He is the only pastor the church has ever had. In 1918 the "bungalow" church on Euclid avenue was erected. Pastor Spangler has been a tireless parish worker, and has helped organize the other ministers to conduct community canvasses to determine where the responsibility of each minister should be placed. Cards indicating Catholic affiliation were turned over to the local priest, Father Smith, with whom the ministers had brotherly relations.

The bungalow church became far too small, and in a business meeting of the church in June, 1926, it was voted to erect a worthy edifice at North Prospect and Cedar. The sanctuary is in Gothic, and attached to it is a commodious parish house for social activities. In this was once given a pageant of the history of Park Ridge which attracted wide attention.

The church had fellowship with the other churches, and many union meetings have been held here including, in earlier days, the high school graduating exercises.

Pastor Spangler was in 1959 the dean of the Park Ridge clergy. At this time he had completed forty-six years of continuous service. His college has conferred on him the D.D. degree. His life companion was taken away from him within two years ago, but he still carries on. He has a son in the Lutheran ministry.

Already we have noted that the Norwegian Lutherans had established an orphanage on Canfield Road. They have since erected a 326 bed hospital on Dempster which was opened in January, 1960. A nurses'

training school is being moved out from Chicago, and the hospital will be fully equipped with personnel and laboratory to do as modern a job as modern medical science can perform. At long last, Park Ridge will have a place to go with emergency illnesses.

Near the new hospital a home for the aged has been established by the United Lutheran Church organization, which promises to be of great importance to us, for at this writing there are about 3,000 people in Park Ridge over 65 years of age. While it was erected primarily for Lutherans, it is not limited to them in its service.

The Federated Theological Faculties of the University of Chicago were headed by a Lutheran, Dean Brauer, a brilliant young theologian. He has preached at St. Luke's. In that pulpit once stood Dr. Frank Laubach, great literacy expert, of world fame. He is known for his method of teaching reading to adults in underprivileged sections of the world. This church has cooperated with the comity churches of the community in promoting missionary interest, and the late Mrs. Spangler was widely known among church women for her leadership in the spring union mission study meetings in the churches.

In closing, we may mention the chimes that sound forth from the tower of St. Luke's. They were the gift of George F. Fox. Community Church installed chimes about the same time, but the churches arranged that there should be no clashing of the bells.

Chapter 37

The Churches Multiply

WE HAVE indicated that early in the history of Maine township there was a brief period when the Episcopalians were more numerous than the people of any other denomination, but many of the early settlers moved on to Iowa and Minnesota, so no church of this faith was organized then. Rev. E. H. Clarke came here in 1896 and became the first settled clergyman of this faith. A Sunday school with 23 members was organized February 10, 1896. On the same day a "Men's Club" met at the home of A. W. Penny, and voted to apply to the bishop for organization as a mission. At this time a weekly eucharist was held, and a women's guild was organized.

When Mr. Clarke ended his ministry here, the church was given a Japanese pastor, the Rev. Mr. Ochiai, who led the infant church in the erection of the first chapel, now included in the present plant at the northwest corner of the property. Mr. Ochiai went back to Japan, and for a time the church had an irregular ministry from Sunday to Sunday. Rev. H. C. Stone served from January 1, 1901 to January 1, 1902, and part of the time lived in Norwood Park because of his inability to find a house in Park Ridge.

From this time until 1910, the church had frequent changes of ministry which hindered its growth. In 1905, Rev. Marcus J. Brown, formerly a Baptist minister, came here as a deacon and was advanced to the priesthood. His term of service was two years. Then a lay reader by the name of William H. Summers carried on until the arrival of Rev. George Flavel Danforth. He also came as a deacon and was advanced to the priesthood. He died in a surgical operation at St. Luke's hospital after two years of service here. Then the lay reader W. H. Summers took over again.

The next priest was Rev. Charles David Atwell, who came here from Michigan in November, 1910. During his stay here, he baptized 86 persons and presented 56 for confirmation. That might well have been a doubling of the confirmed membership of the church.

A rectory had been acquired during the leadership of Mr. Danforth, which increased the land holdings of the church to a plot 148 feet on South Prospect by 172 feet on Crescent. The cornerstone of a new church was laid in 1913. This was modern gothic in style and had an ample chancel. The interior is described by Community Church women in their history thus: "From the Epistle side of the chancel a door leads to a well appointed working sacristy for the exclusive use of the altar guild; and from the gospel side of the choir opens the organ

chamber and also a door leading into the priest's sacristy, which is also well arranged for its proper use."

The next priest in charge was the Rev. C. A. Cummings, who served for five years from 1916. The finances of the church were strengthened during this period. A new altar and reredos were presented by Miss Penny in memory of Miss Mary A. Wilson. The latter presented the church with a new pipe organ before her death.

The next priest was Rev. Harry Lee Smith, who had been an assistant of Rev. George Craig Stewart of St. Luke's, Evanston, who came the fall of 1921. Just prior to his coming, the church status was advanced from the rank of a mission to that of a self-supporting church. In March, 1923, steps were taken for the erection of the Mary Wilson House which was opened for public use in 1924. Following this Rev. R. Everett Carr accepted a call to St. Mary's, and this gracious personality made many friends for the church.

Rev. John Hubbard came to St. Mary's from Evanston. He had been formerly a minister of a Presbyterian church in Escanaba, Michigan, after securing his divinity degree at Princeton.

As a personality he will long be remembered here for his gracious sense of humor and for his concern for the unfortunate of his parish. He entered into the life of the community in many ways, serving on the board of the grade school. It has been noted that he became a thirty-third degree Mason and travelled out of town many times to help the order in its work. His relationship with the other religious forces of the city was kindly and cooperative.

Following his demise in 1958, it became known that for ten years he had been afflicted with a deadly disease known only to his physician and himself. He carried on with great courage during this ten years. He left behind him a church that had grown in membership greatly and which was by this time one of the strong churches of the diocese. He was succeeded by Father Russell, a Ph.D. chemist who turned minister in middle life. He is a native of Canada, and was formerly a Methodist. He follows the lead of his predecessor in becoming a community-serving clergyman.

It was in 1897 that two Christian Scientists living in Edison Park, began to meet weekly to read the manual of their denomination, "Science and Health." These were joined by others, some of them from Park Ridge. The group grew to twenty, and in 1901 a hall was secured for the meetings. Soon afterwards a meeting house was erected mid-way between Edison Park and Park Ridge. This edifice was destroyed by fire in December, 1910. In 1914 a church edifice seating 350 people and costing $11,000 was erected. It was dedicated free of debt in 1917. This edifice became inadequate and the present home of the congregation on Touhy avenue was erected in 1954. Many members of this congregation are members of the mother church in Boston.

The local Presbyterian Church began meeting in the Lincoln School under the leadership of a missioner of presbytery, Dr. Sawyer, in 1948. It is a "comity" church for this denomination cooperates with the Church Federation of Greater Chicago, and will not organize new

churches without the sanction of the Federation. Dr. Sawyer was succeeded by Rev. John Bellingham, from Pennsylvania. The congregation now has a parsonage, and the first unit of a church plant. Mr. Bellingham served a term as president of the Ministers' Association of Park Ridge. He has a growing congregation.

South Park Church is an independent congregation which has been served by ministers trained at Wheaton College. Its point of view theologically may be understood to a considerable extent by reminding our readers that the Rev. "Billy" Graham, the evangelist, was trained at Wheaton. The program of the church has been strongly evangelistic and missionary. Its relatively new edifice is a worthy addition to the church architecture of the city. The present pastor is Rev. H. L. Patterson. Former pastors were Don Hoke, now president of the Japan Christian college, in Tokyo and Rev. Edmund Boslough. From the first, Stanley McLennan, a real estate man, has been deeply interested in this church. In the past ten years the Sunday school of this church has almost doubled. It is one of the few Park Ridge churches that hold a worship service Sunday evening for the public.

Another "comity" church has come to Park Ridge very recently, the First Baptist. Many of its members were formerly members of North Shore Baptist. This congregation worships in a schoolhouse but has a new building under construction.

Small fundamentalist groups meet in the Masonic Temple and in Oakton school on Sunday. Paul said of Athens, "I perceive that in every way you are very religious." Perhaps your historian cannot go that far, but he can say that Park Ridge is more religious than it used to be.

Chapter 38

Storm and Stress Period

IN THE midst of the stirring events of the 1890's, there does not seem to have been much interest in local politics in Park Ridge. The village government was well managed by the leading families, and everybody was satisfied. But in the decade that followed a lot of new things happened. Maine High school got started. That story has been told in another chapter. And in this decade the Country Club got under way. The population was increasing so that there were now two thousand people here.

From the near north side of Chicago William H. Malone came into the community. No history of Park Ridge can be written without taking him into account. And no chapter will be more difficult, for the reaction to his personality varied from that of hero-worship to that of bitter enmity. Old-time friends grew cold each spring as they voted on either side of a hotly contested election. If your historian can let down the plumb-line of strict justice, he will do so. Mr. Malone's former political opponents are still here, and many of his friends. A written source for the events of the early days is that written by Mrs. Thomas Trim, mother of Mrs. Fred Gillick. This is in the history of Park Ridge published in 1915 as an advertising venture.

She related that in 1908 or 1909, Mr. Malone organized the Park Ridge Municipal League. Its announced purpose was "to promote efficency and economy in local government."

Probably the deep difference between the League members and their opponents was the sewer question. Certain homes on the south side got three feet of water in the basement in the spring. They still do sometimes after all the sewer building of the years. Another sewer meant taxes. Those with residences on the high ground would not likely welcome these taxes while those with vacant land to develop on the south side would wish the sewer.

It was argued by the League that municipal government was safer because the mayor of a city could not appoint the treasurer. It was more democratic, for each section of the city would have ward representation. This was in opposition to village government.

Mrs. Trimm says that Mr. Malone spent weeks of his time working for the change of government, and he carried an election by a large majority. Now the newly created city must choose a mayor and some alderman. In this election Mr. Malone ran against Dr. Buchheit, the president of the newly created Country Club, and was defeated, making Dr. Buchheit our first mayor. A year later Mr. Malone ran again

against Albert Verity and was the second mayor of Park Ridge, being in office for two years. At the end of this term Bruce Durham, a businessman, was elected for two years. Then Mr. Malone ran against Albert Verity again and was defeated, which evened up that score. In another chapter we note some events of the Verity administration. By this time Mr. Malone had been appointed as a member of the State Board of Equalization. The taxes on the Northwestern Railroad were raised by five million dollars, for which many citizens were grateful.

Mrs. Trimm gives Mr. Malone credit for the improvement of East Center road without expense to the local people. This is now called Touhy Avenue. She said that in the spring "it was nothing but a marsh, and utterly impassable." This was the road that connected with the Milwaukee Avenue road to Chicago, which at one period was a "corduroy road."

Mr. Verity says that it was in his administration that the first city water came to Park Ridge, but Mrs. Trimm gives Mr. Malone credit for getting an ordinance through the city council of Chicago permitting this. He gets credit in this history for the first oiling of the streets of the new city to keep the dust down. Much use was made of the establishment of public drinking fountains.

We must give Mr. Malone credit for some of our good buildings. The Pickwick Theater building was the most imposing. More about this in another chapter. He erected the building now occupied by the Citizen's Bank. He was a mortgage broker and seems to have treated his clients with consideration.

He became a candidate for the governorship of Illinois in the primary and was defeated. In this campaign, he incurred the enmity of some very powerful politicians. At about this time the manager of the Pickwick went to Germany to live, leaving behind him a bill for a lot of unpaid rent. Mr. Malone went to Germany, and stayed there for a considerable time trying to collect this rent, it was alleged.

It was at this time that rumors got out that Mr. Malone was in trouble with the income tax division of the federal government. He returned to America after getting an understanding with the federal officials. About what happened after his return, there is still much unwritten. A Methodist preacher of Chicago turned out a book completely exonerating Mr. Malone. His old political opponents did not accept this. He disappeared from view for awhile, and we draw the curtain on this.

On his return to Park Ridge, he resumed his position on the board of the Citizen's Bank which place he held for a number of years. His political activities were now largely ended, though his old political party may have consulted him for a number of years. He now made friends of some of his former enemies, and Park Ridge politics passed out of the storm and stress period. We still had two political parties, but no big mass meetings with political invectives flying through the air.

We later had one more orator mayor in Dr. Haake, who held the office for eight years. He was a public relations official for General Motors. He held a Ph.D. degree, the only Park Ridge mayor that ever did.

He had very positive opinions in the economic field, on the conservative side, of course, but he made no bitter political enemies. It was he that introduced the idea of a city manager form of government.

He lives in a Park Ridge colony of oldsters down in Florida, but he still follows our affairs with interest. He has been a devoted church member and has many friends even of those who did not vote for him.

It is interesting to look back on the political activities of fifty years ago and those of today. The mass meeting method has just about disappeared, though now we have public auditoriums that would make this method more practical than in the long ago. The printed page is used more often. The newspapers often occupy a neutral position.

There have been periodic complaints about the tax bills through the years, but when the citizens analyze their tax bills, they discover that most of the money spent in Park Ridge goes for schools and playgrounds, for which the citizens themselves voted bond issues that now must be paid off. It may be gratefully recorded that it has never been successfully alleged that any public funds have been misappropriated by our officials.

Chapter 39

War Breaks Out

WHEN PEOPLE came home from their vacation in September, 1914, they read in their papers that Kaiser Wilhelm had started moving troops against France. We Americans were only mildly interested at first. We had been at peace for a generation. We proposed to stay that way. When President Wilson ran on a ticket, "He kept us out of war," we voted him back into office.

But soon after the 1916 election we were in the war. Following cues from Washington, our orators were proclaiming, "This is a war against war." "This is a war to make the world safe for democracy." At the close of the war there was born in America the idea of a League of Nations, only to have this idea made sterile by American politicians.

Our little community contributed its part to the war in the purchase of war bonds and in the giving of men. On the west border of Hodges Park we still have memorial stones honoring those who died during the First World War. These are inscribed with the following names: Corp. Mel Tierney, Sgt. Emmons Harries, Pvt. Richard Boettcher, Lt. Herbert C. Petersen, and from the Merchant Marines, Henry J. Ziegenbein. Only the first named died in action, the date being October 9, 1918. An armistice was declared November 11, 1918. The election the fall of 1918 was preceded by a call from the President for a Democratic Congress. There is no record of election results in Park Ridge, but it is likely that our city continued its traditional policy of voting Republican.

Right after the armistice as the troops were coming home, there came the organization of the American Legion. Congress gave it a charter in 1919. In 1921 it had already enrolled 759,799 men. The Veterans of Foreign Wars was started by veterans of the Spanish-American war, and it could receive men from any war fought on foreign soil, but the new organization soon became vastly more numerous than the old one. Its declared purpose was the care of disabled veterans, and the passing of bonus bills, but by 1927 it had come out for a program of community development.

Park Ridge got its Legion post early in Legion history. Prominent in the early days were Dr. L. A. Platts, John W. Burkitt, the Holbrook boys and Dr. T. E. Conley. It was called Mel Tierney Post to honor our first casualty in action. For a number of years the post stressed music, and their drum and bugle corps acquired many honors. It developed a Memorial Day celebration which grew until it became our largest community gathering. A meeting hall was erected on Grace Street. It was sold in 1958 to the School for Retarded Youth, and a new hall was

erected on 710 N. Northwest highway. Poppy Day was brought to Park Ridge, and is observed every year. For many years a carnival was held in a public park in August. At this carnival a Cadillac car was given away, the car being donated by John Burkitt. During the pastorate of Rev. George Truman Carl of the Park Ridge Methodist Church, a Lincoln pageant was a feature of the annual festival which brought large numbers of people to the park. Doubtless there were many other activities that a loyal member of the post would wish to chronicle.

The post has an active auxiliary to which women relatives of the veterans may belong. Perhaps the most conspicuous enterprise of this group was the furnishing of a store room on Devon near Prospect for the use of the public library. The people living in South Town used this room for a number of years until the library lost the lease, and had to move into a basement room of the Roosevelt school.

It is within comparatively recent years that the Veterans of Foreign Wars organized a post in Park Ridge, and erected a club house on Touhy Avenue near the cemetery. This was just outside the city limits of Park Ridge. The city decided to annex this territory in 1959, and the post, for certain reasons, did not wish to operate within city limits. So it purchased the old Pennoyer school property at the corner of Higgins and Canfield which is now being furnished as a club house. The VFW has an auxiliary organization of women related to the veterans.

Our local organization of the D.A.R. was formed May 24, 1930. Mrs. Vance was one of the leaders; Mrs. Harbert and Mrs. Simpson were also leaders. Mrs. C. A. Partenheimer was very active. The organization meets in homes monthly in the club season. It makes contributions to mountain schools and gives medals to the R.O.T.C. It gives out history medals in the high school. An important part of its work is to provide booklets on Americanism to new citizens. Its programs usually deal with American history. We noted in our chapter on the Maine Cemetery that Mrs. Vestal had identified the graves out there, thus rendering an important service to the community. The national organization came into existence in 1890 with Mrs. Benjamin Harrison, wife of the president, as the organizer.

The celebration of the Fourth of July has not always been in the hands of the business men, but in early days it was, and once more it has fallen to the lot of the Chamber of Commerce to provide this celebration. This culminates in fireworks. Some years an effort has been made to secure a speaker but perhaps due to the weather at this season this custom tends to disappear.

It would hardly be fair to say the patriotic sentiment of the community depended entirely on the organizations that are committed to this interest. The churches maintain flags in their places of worship, and take note of many patriotic holidays. Foremost among these is Thanksgiving Day when a union service is held in addition to services in the local churches which do not join in the union service. Armistice Sunday was often observed.

The children's organizations march on the big patriotic days. Their leaders may be counted on to contribute to patriotism.

At either end of the patriotic sentiment are extremes. The super-patriot has appeared at times, but has never been able to take over. It is he who thinks that he and a few of his cohorts are the only real patriots. As for disloyalists, the community looked for them in wartimes, but never found any. One communist ballot was cast here, but we were never able to determine whether it was an honest expression of opinion, or just a jokester's trick.

The real tests of patriotism are to be found in other ways than we have indicated. What is the status of respect for law? We have indicated in our chapter on the police that it is rather high. Our local court has a lot of cases every Saturday morning, but they are mostly violations of law by automobile drivers whose delinquencies were not the result of defiance of law, but of carelessness. One tests patriotism by the efforts of the citizenry to vote on election days, and to cast intelligent ballots. Using this test, we do not rank as high as we should.

Chapter 40

Church Federation

ACCORDING to the records, religion was in the doldrums in Park Ridge from 1870 to 1910. Dr. Penneywell has made an interesting study of the statistics of the Methodist church for this period. The average size of the church had been 51 persons. In 1873, the church had 15% of the population; in 1880, 12%; in 1890, 6.3%; in 1900, 4%; in 1910, 3.5%. The population had grown in forty years from 315 to 2,009. There are no comparable figures for the Congregational Church, but they are likely worse.

The writer first became aware of the sad state of religion in Park Ridge in 1910. He was one of five denominational superintendents in Chicago that lunched together regularly to try to eliminate competition among the denominations that cooperated. The organization was the Cooperative Council of City Missions, which preceded slightly the Church Federation of Greater Chicago.

At one of the luncheons it was reported that there were about a dozen people in each of two Park Ridge churches on Sunday morning and that each church was having trouble carrying on. (Our old-timers say it was not that bad). These superintendents were confronted with a wild proposal, that the two churches should federate. Each would continue its own membership list, but there would be one worship service, one Sunday school, one women's society, and one budget. There were but few such arrangements in the United States. Who initiated this proposal, the Methodists or the Congregationalists? There is no record, and perhaps it does not matter. Instead of a Union Thanksgiving service there was a union service all the time with not too much concern about any denominational affiliation. Rev. John L. Dickson, Methodist, began pastoring both churches on September 4, 1913.

The new experiment worked so well that there was a great need of a new Sunday school building. Here the federation ran into a snag. Where would this edifice be erected, and who would own it?

The Methodist account of the problem is as follows: "The Congregationalists proposed a building on their lot on the south side. This the Methodists rejected. Other sites were considered with no success. The Methodists submitted a proposition that they would build on their own lot if the Congregationalists would continue the federation. This offer was rejected. The Methodists proposed building on a neutral site with joint ownership. This project was defeated by a ruling from Bishop Nicholson that Methodist church boards could not hold joint ownership with any outside groups."

The oral tradition of the early members of the Community Church was that the Congregationalists were rather passive about the negotiations with the bishop and that a committee composed of Methodists labored with him until the tension made a break. According to them the federation was dissolved one night, and the Community Church was formed without benefit of clergy the next night, April 17, 1917. In the new organization were such prominent Methodists as Albert Masters, Robert Baird, Albert Verity, Frank Patsons, Willard Davison, and many other former Methodists. In the midst of all this both sides held a high regard for Rev. Albertus Perry, the Methodist minister, who was in the middle.

Some of the more staunch Methodists remained, though Dr. Penneywell says the Methodist church was greatly weakened by the experiment. The staunchest of the old-time Methodists was F. C. Jorgeson. He was the angel that made up the annual deficits. The Congregationalists had a half dozen men that divided theirs. The Staggs, the Meachems, the Krafts, the Pates and other old-timers stayed with the Methodist ship. At the end of 1917 they had 150 members. F. C. Jorgeson offered them the property on Prospect street near the church, but it was decided to keep the old church which was made into Jorgeson Hall. A new church was dedicated in the pastorate of T. P. Brannum, whose ashes are now kept in the wall of the sanctuary.

The new Community Church wrote a covenant and constitution under the leadership of L. C. Dole, a strong layman. The church called Dr. J. R. Stead, of Galva, Illinois to be the pastor. Under his leadership the church soon had more than two hundred members. The two churches had had a total membership of less than a hundred in 1912, but now their memberships added up to a total of close to four hundred. Federation had stirred up religious interest. In addition to this fact, the town was having another population boom, and there were more prospects available.

The resolution that dissolved the federation indicates the spirit of the laymen of that time: "Regretting the necessity of dissolving the federation and asking the board of directors to handle the details of separation in such a way that the spirit of fellowship and good will existing between the two churches shall continue in the future as it has in the past." This resolution has been lived up to. The pastors of the two churches have often been close friends, and in union meetings the two churches have continued to express their spirit of brotherhood and good will.

About this time, new churches were appearing in Park Ridge. St. Mary's began holding regular services in 1894 but not until 1913 did they erect the present St. Mary's edifice. For a number of years Rev. C. A. Cummings was the stalwart priest in charge. The Christian Scientists dedicated their first building in 1902. In 1909 St. Andrew's Lutheran made its start. The first Catholic mass was said in Park Ridge June 20, 1911. A. Susen, a layman, had induced the bishop to provide Catholic worship for the community. St. Luke's began in a hall in 1914, and soon called a young man fresh from Gettysburg seminary. Dr. W. D.

Spangler still heads this church, having in 1959 a continuous pastorate of 46 years, the longest of all the pastorates of the community. He has been the tireless pastor, ringing more doorbells than any minister ever rang in this community. He has been the friendly padre to hundreds, maybe thousands, who never joined his church.

All of this meant that Park Ridge after forty years of religious doldrums now entered an era of enthusiastic church building. The acids of modern thinking were eating away many an old concept, and the churches presented revised teaching, and changed programs of service. In particular, they tended to abandon restrictive rules that had to do with the peccadilloes of life. All America is in the midst of a vast increase of church membership. However, the church of the days gone by had a very hostile press. Novels like "Robert Elsemere" and "The Reign of Law" disturbed the writer in his youth and thousands of others. The lectures of Robert Ingersoll were in many home libraries. There is still plenty of dissent from religious orthodoxy, but it now takes a new form, and there is a clergy educated to meet these dissenting views.

Chapter 41

Moving Pictures Come to Town

THE FIRST movies were brought to Park Ridge by a barber by the name of Jim Bell and shown in an empty store building where the Woolworth store held forth for many years. He sold the business several times, and in 1915 F. T. Ransley took it over and ran it for five years. When he lost his lease on the store, the movies stopped in Park Ridge until about 1924 when Mr. Ransley and Bessie Hayles showed pictures on a bed sheet on the side of Community Church summer evenings, and took collections for Community Women's Circle.

An accident on Community Church lawn discouraged this enterprise. When Mary Wilson House was opened, pictures were shown there for a little while, but when the Vine Avenue theater opened, the church did not try to meet the competition.

Mr. Ransley was all this while a railway mail clerk, and Mrs. Ransley knew how to operate his equipment. He lived until recently in their old home on Clinton street, and both Mr. and Mrs. Ransley were portrait painters. They had a class of pupils every year. The Ransleys were world travelers.

The Greater Chicago Magazine of September, 1928, was a special issue on Park Ridge, and gives the best account of the new industry that is available. Robert C. McGregor was manager and part owner of a 1,000 seat theater on Vine Avenue which now contains a skating rink and some offices and stores. There was a tie-up with Balaban & Katz, movie operators of Chicago. The Greater Chicago Magazine was enthusiastic over the modernity of the new show house. It had oil heat, which had only recently come to Park Ridge. It also had washed air. The entire output of United Artists, Paramount, First National, Universal and Fox was controlled, though not all of this output was used, for under McGregor no picture that would offend public taste was shown. The organ was built by A. Gottfried, of Erie, Pa., and voiced by him. James Cole was the projectionist, not our present alderman. The Robert McGregor of this story filled a number of city offices.

In 1928 the new Pickwick Theater was opened, with 1600 seats. It quite outclassed the theater on Vine Avenue except that its rival had tied up most of the supply of good film for a year. Park Ridge had an estimated population of 10,000, and theater capacity for 2,600. Something had to be done. W. H. Malone, who had erected the Pickwick, proceeded to buy out the other theater, and for many years it stood empty.

The new Pickwick was erected of variegated limestone. It was the foremost piece of commercial architecture in the city. W. F. Mc-

Caughey, Jr. was the architect. He has had to do with some of the leading buildings of the community, including the Maine High school, the new Public Library and the All-American building. He might well deserve a special chapter in this history, for he was more than an architect, he was a personality. He was a painter of considerable reputation, and lived part of the year in the country near Galena, Ill., though keeping an office here.

Going back to the Pickwick, it had a number of managers, but none more interesting than Joel Smouse whose humor and fine judgment of community sentiment brought much business to his show house.

He was generous in the use of the great auditorium, the largest in the city. School commencements were held here. Community Church held its Easter service here for fifteen years or more, and usually filled the house. Mr. Smouse and the writer often had a chuckle over an event the first Easter the church met in the show house. The churchgoers came up that morning to see in flaring type above the door, "The Devil's Playground." Underneath was a sign "Community Church." A church officer began looking for "Joel" but could not find him until after the service. Under his management Park Ridge did little complaining about the moral influence of the shows, for Mr. Smouse was a Methodist, though not of the ultra-strict type. He finished his life here as manager of the Burkitt Service Station after John Burkitt moved to Florida.

We have lived long enough to see the theater audiences get less as the city grew larger. What caused this? Certainly we often have movies that cost much more than the old ones ever did. The mechanical quality has improved phenomenally. The movie often takes one all over the world. But in the amusement world it has met hard competition.

The television gets a good deal of the credit for smaller movie audience but this is not the whole story. The number of rural eating places has increased. Some of these places offer amusement as well as food.

Certainly the churches found themselves in a new world after the movie came. Before the movie era it was not uncommon for a church to have a bigger Sunday evening service than Sunday morning. Nearly every church in town closed up its Sunday evening service within three years after the movie came. How much the increased use of the automobile had to do with this, one will never know.

The coming of the movie was acclaimed as the death of reading habits, just as later it was predicted that television would end reading. On the contrary the number of book-reading clubs increased in the community. But the provincialism of any community in America was definitely modified. We had fun all over the nation the same way, and we ceased to be as different as once we had been.

In the meantime other recreational agencies had stepped up their facilities. The churches ceased to show movies when the theaters were built, and they ceased to have gym classes when the public school put in athletic directors. However, they had found out that it was im-

portant to hold young people, and they began to have junkets and retreats which were half religious and half recreational. The Park Board began to have a bigger program, and the Boy Scouts were now under way, but about these we have already spoken. So perhaps we have to say that the theater did not wreck us at all, but just made us aware that we could no longer live as our pioneer forefathers did. We must have play as well as work, or else come to an early end.

It should be said that the amateur movie operator is now on the scene. He travels and comes back sometimes with priceless records of his trip. The Sunday schools of the town use both slides and movies to illustrate their teachings of the Bible and Christian missions. So the movie is not always recreational but is quite often a method of teaching both in our schools and in our churches. So we lay a wreath on the grave of the inventor of the movies. Whatever Hollywood may do to them, on the long pull they will be a constructive force for good.

Chapter 42

A Photograph of Park Ridge

THE METHOD of an historian is sometimes to photograph a nation or a city as of a given time, and then trace the changes. Up to now we have not been able to do this, but we propose to sketch the Park Ridge we found in 1921 when we first visited it. It was not easy to get here. There was as yet no concrete road connecting the northwest suburbs with the north shore, and these knew but little of the other. Evanston was always pretty "snooty" toward other communities, but particularly so toward Park Ridge. An Evanston banker said to his minister client, "Mister Jawdin, aren't you making a terrible mistake to go over there among those truck-farmers?"

We did not tell him about the things in Evanston that we did not like. While the university and the library had put us under an everlasting debt, one with a sociological conscience despised the high invisible walls that divided that city into at least five different communities. Park Ridge had no such walls. A brief examination showed it to be the most democratic community around. The churches were more of a size, with no one dominating the landscape. There were a lot of things to attract.

We stuck the car in a mudhole on North Prospect, but the jack got us out, so we went on down to the bank. At the six points there was a horse trough. It was no longer used but had not been removed. On one of the six points was a water tower, singularly ugly. What is now Touhy Avenue still had some dilapidated board walks. The edge of the town was at Washington street, where there was a cow pasture (now the "ritzy" Mackintosh subdivision). The lady of the manse was not impressed. She made it hard, by saying, "It looks like every time you move, you go to a poorer church!" But she was silenced by this reply, "You lack imagination! See that load of lumber out in the cow pasture! That means this town is going to grow, and become a great commuter's center." Within two years the hammers all over town verified this prediction.

So we moved to Park Ridge, but not for many months, for there was no house available. Only twenty places were rented, and they were full. Into one of Dr. Fricke's apartments we went, in the spring of 1922.

We soon regretted the schools. We left behind in Evanston the best school administrator that that city ever had, and this man had buildings to support his program. In Park Ridge, S. E. Merrill was trying to carry on in the old firetrap on Grant place, and in the Central school, which burned down after our arrival.

We had served on the Evanston library board with its thousands of well selected volumes. Here we found the books of George B. Carpenter in a $7,500 Andrew Carnegie building. We had to buy most of the books we wanted.

Park Ridge still had a distinctly rural atmosphere. Many families kept chickens in the back yard, and it was afterwards that a city ordinance defined the distance from human habitations chickens had to be. But those days one awoke in the morning to the voice of chanticleer. There were more flowers in front of the house than in Evanston, but usually some vegetables in the back.

Main street had not been paved yet, but its graveled streets held puddles on rainy days. It was later, that concrete went in and we had a dance on the new pavement to celebrate this event one evening. L. M. Leeds, leading grocery, still had barrels of some supplies in his store. We saw a lady surreptitiously slip some soap chips into her mouth. She thought it a new cereal. She frothed at the mouth! Package goods were not much in evidence yet. John Roloff was the veteran hardware man. His most active customers were the farmers round-about, as the merchandise indicated. The Staggs ran a department store at the corner of Prospect and Summit, on one side of which were groceries and on the other, dry goods. "Bill" Robinson was already in the candy business, and upstairs was the only commercial hall in town. Here the Masons held their meetings.

The town had old Dr. Fricke, retired, but still serving a few old friends. Dr. W. M. Friend had been broken in the flu attack of 1919, but able to carry on a few more years, supported by a wife who contributed much to the community in every way, and who was the first president of the Women's Circle of Community Church. Dr. Olmstead was already here, and a young Irish surgeon, Dr. T. E. Conley, had only recently located. The nearest hospitals were the Swedish Covenant and St. Frances of Evanston. About 1922 Dr. Ben Sargent came.

On the south side but few buildings stood south of Belleplaine and at first some had no adequate sewer connection. They drained into individual septic tanks, which filled to the brim in the spring. A duck pond could be found down near Cumberland and Talcott. Everything south of Belleplaine was out in the "sticks." There were no paved streets and few sidewalks.

The town politics were influenced from the platform, and there was dire need of a hall big enough to accommodate the orators. The biggest we had was the gymnasium of the Park Ridge School for Girls. Here every spring battle royal was done by the political game-cooks.

But the people were wonderful. There were no invisible walls to scale as in Evanston. When a nurse was not available, they still nursed each other's sick if they had to. The town was full of bridge clubs which were later to be replaced to a considerable extent by book clubs. Down at the railroad station one knew just about everybody that took the 8:15. Those days the trains ran on time, for our Frank Parsons was train dispatcher, and our George Hand was secretary to the president. The railroad offered the only transporation to the city, for the buses

had not yet arrived. We were not affluent enough to drive private cars to work.

The community was quite uneasy about the lack of recreation for youth. "Doc" Wintersteen's drug store was a loafing place for youth in the evening, and their presence did not help business. Nevertheless he was wonderfully patient and in the open air season had baseball teams competing on vacant lots. Radio was in little use, so the lights went out over town in the homes at nine o'clock. I brought to town a "cat-whisker" radio with head-phones that brought in a few programs. I reported on the street one morning that I had heard Kansas City! Some electrical engineers said to each other, "That new preacher is an awful liar." But this is what happened. Our aerial on the roof of the apartment was parallel to Mr. Jones' aerial, and he had just installed a set with the new radio tube. He had been rebroadcasting on to our aerial, so we really did hear Kansas City on a "cat-whisker" radio.

Chapter 43

Business Changes in Forty Years

BUSINESS changes in forty years in Park Ridge are due not only to a rapidly changing population, but also to the new economic developments in the nation. In 1915, when the advertising history of Park Ridge was issued, the city had about 2500 population. The first organization of business men occurred in 1913 when the Park Ridge Commercial Association was formed with Charles F. Taube, president; M. L. Wiederhold, vice president; William H. Ahrensfeld, secretary; and H. E. Meachem, treasurer. The prime mover was said to be Harrie C. Miller, dealer in auto tires. Two years earlier the name had been Park Ridge Business Men's Association. "Its object was to promote interest for the general welfare of the town and to create harmony among the local merchants." The last phrase intrigues one. What lies behind it?

The history credits the new organization with such important activities as putting on a poultry show, an egg laying contest, the Fourth of July celebration and various advertising schemes. Was the advertising history one of these? It was at this time that the business men installed street signs here. About fifty-six business houses and professional people were members. To follow the history of this organization until we get to the present day with a "hostess" greeting new people in the person of Esther Ward would go beyond our space. Through the years the teeth have been pulled from competition. A business man does not hesitate to send a customer to his competitor if he does not have the article desired. But it was not always so.

The food purveyors are the ones first found by the newcomer. Those days you got your groceries from Chas. Kobow & Son, the older house, or from Fred Staggs, who ran a general store with a grocery department. It seems L. M. Leeds had not arrived yet from Evanston, but later he ran a grocery for many years on Main street. Those days you did not see women carrying heavy bags of groceries down the street, for the stores delivered. Those were the "good old days." It was still done with horses, and there were always boys who did not go to high school who did the delivering.

Perkins Express was at its hey-day, and advertised that they had the only storage warehouse on the northwest side. Lewis Perkins ran this place with the help of his brother. Wm. C. Robinson ran a candy and ice cream store on Prospect street for almost all of the forty years, and the sweet tooth of the town made it possible for him to retire comfortably. Louise Stagg ran a gift shop not far from the one now found on Prospect.

By this time Fred I. Gillick had been in business for about fifteen years purveying real estate and insurance. On the same street was "Mike" Schiessle, in the same business and holding various public offices, among these being town collector and justice of the peace. He was credited with being the first owner of the town's electric light plant, but it was his father. Novak and Parker had met the coming of electricity with the sale of the various kinds of equipment to use electricity in our homes. L. S. Wintersteen seems to have been the only pharmacist. John W. Burkitt had recently come to town to sell Studebaker cars, and he is reported to have started on a "shoestring." E. B. Mabee for many years conducted a lunch counter on Main street next to Gillick's.

The advertising booklet has more ads from cut flower greenhouses than for all other lines of business combined. The economic support of the community had been poultry, but we are here on the edge of a transition. Of course, Park Ridge could not use these flowers. They went down to the city, and to this day the greenhouse business is important on the west side of the city.

The greatest population explosion in Park Ridge was in the decade 1920-1930. The official figures show a population of 3,383 in 1920 and in 1930, 10,417. Naturally this affected business standards and practices. New stores were opened. We opened agencies for a number of cars, and John W. Burkitt went over to Cadillac, destined to become the leading Cadillac dealer in the Middle West.

In this decade C. W. Thompson came in with a milk station and a bakery. This was the first time that we got milk any other way than from a milk wagon. His business expanded until before retirement he had five stores, not all in Park Ridge. Moheiser's, from small beginnings, became a center not only for women shoppers of Park Ridge, but for adjacents suburbs.

When did Park Ridge become the restaurant center for the northwest side? About this time. The historic old building known now as the Pantry, almost deserves a chapter, for it goes through a long evolution from a horse barn to our swankiest restaurant. The Tallyho on the highway across the tracks caters to gourmets with food of most excellent quality.

But there were threatening signs on the horizon. About this time the chain stores came in, and made a bid for the food business. How three great chains have come near to capturing our food business is well known. We note an effort of Kiwanis to stop this, but it was impossible. However, most of the pharmacy business remains in the hands of private enterprise, and in the meantime many smaller specialty shops have come into being.

The lack of parking for thousands of cars in the city led to the development of new shopping centers. The Gillicks fostered one on Devon near the South Park and it was an instant success. It was followed by the erection of stores along Devon all the way from Cumberland to Crescent. To this has been added another shopping center on Busse highway, also with free parking. As this is written, for the first time in years, there are vacant stores in the center of town. The park-

ing north of the depot is occupied by commuters, often from other suburbs. What does this portend?

The competition from State Street grows less for it is increasingly expensive and time consuming to go down there for merchandise. But the State Street stores come out our way, like the group of stores at Old Orchard. Here there is parking in abundance, and a chance for a housewife to lunch as well as shop. But Park Ridge business does not seem to suffer from this kind of competition.

Our present day Chamber of Commerce has some fine community enterprises which commend our local stores to the people. Between housewife and the stores of our city and their proprietors there is a wholesome friendship and cooperation.

Chapter 44

Luncheon Clubs Formed

PARK RIDGE got its first luncheon club when Kiwanis was organized here in 1925. It was fitting that the first president should be Fred Stagg who had been in business here longer than any other member. He served to January 1, 1927, when R. D. Hamms became the president. Once he was the town's leading baker, but for many years he was our assessor. He now lives in Florida. Then came George Scharringhausen, the town's leading pharmacist. He will be mentioned in a study of personalities.

The club in the early days had a hard time to find a meeting place. The churches took turns serving it, often performing this service well, but anyone who eats around churches knows that the cook is not always the same. They tried a caterer in the Masonic temple. Park Ridge did not in those days have the fine restaurants, the Pantry and the Tallyho, which now draw business from the whole northwest side.

The Kiwanis Club originated in Detroit. Its first motto was "We trade." The idea was that a group of merchants would agree to buy of each other. It did not take long to outgrow this. Then they said, "We build." Their idea was to dedicate their talents to the making of a better community. Unlike some other similar clubs, two men of each calling or business might join the club. This soon was interpreted broadly so that few were ever kept out by reason of the club having too many of a kind. This taught business men to get acquainted with competitors. The Kiwanis clubs of the United States and Canada have an international magazine of great merit, as well as their district news bulletin. As time went on the clubs became deeply interested in under-privileged children. It is beyond the scope of this study to speak further of the international movement.

About the time the club was organized, chain stores began to appear in Park Ridge. The local merchants were naturally alarmed for these did eventually pretty well eliminate the local merchant from the food business. One cannot say that the club's effort produced any great result.

The interest in child welfare in the community was more in line with the purpose of the club. Money was given to the Park Ridge School for Girls. The club for many years sponsored a Boy Scout Troop, No. 3, and provided its leadership. We hear of aid for the Camp Fire Girls, the first organization for girls in the community.

There was a year when most of the programs of the club in its weekly meetings were concerned with various things composing our com-

munity. The library had a day as well as the public schools. When that year was over the club had a pretty thorough grasp of its community problem, and it discovered that it did not need to send out of town for good speakers. This also added to the knowledge of the town's personnel, for by this time some very interesting people had come in.

The old members still smile when mention is made of the golf practice grounds the club once acquired. It was up the Northwest Highway, and the idea was to make a lot of money from this for the charities that were supported by the club. The big depression came along, and this enterprise was a white elephant. It took some years to recover from the effects of it.

The club members may secure attendance credit by visiting meetings of other clubs, so the fellowship is not limited to the local organization. Busloads of men go to visit other clubs, so this club came to know something of the problems of other communities.

Members of this club have been honored in the leadership of the larger movement, and recently George Scharringhausen, Jr., was secretary of the Illinois-Iowa district and is probably slated to become district governor.

The club in recent years organized a woman's auxiliary which has regular meetings, Mrs. Frank Rehder being prominent in this. The ladies traditionally share a Christmas dinner at the Tallyho with the men.

Of recent years the charity work of the club has received additional support from an annual pancake dinner. This is held in churches each year, and the past two years in the unusually commodious dining hall of St. Paul-of-the-Cross Catholic Church. Many hundreds of people are served.

A club that has no fund for speakers naturally has programs of unequal worth. However, the contribution to adult education through the weekly programs has been significant. Some very eminent people have spoken here, among them Dr. Frank Laubach, the great literacy expert, who is known throughout the entire world for his short and easy way of teaching adults how to read.

There was a Lion's Club here before the Second World War, but due to pre-occupation with war work the club went out of existence. After the War was over, a second club was formed with a new charter in July, 1947. Urban Bachmann was the first president, and he was followed by Howard Brooks, Dr. T. J. Conley, and Ben Rausch. The club has at the present fifty members. It meets in the Pantry restaurant on Fridays. As a benevolent outlet, the international organization has devoted itself to the assistance of the blind. It is helping the Hadley School for the Blind, and helps blind people to get the dogs that are trained to lead the blind about. The international organization was organized in Dallas, July 1947, and has grown phenomenally since then.

The local club sponsors the Little Leaguers, a team of baseball players made up of boys. It helps the Norwegian Lutheran Home for Children and goes over there for a meeting once in awhile.

Another organization of business men is the Junior Chamber of Commerce which has been organized in recent years and in which Frank Rehder, Jr., takes a deep interest. The senior Chamber of Commerce has behind it so much history that we have given it a separate chapter.

Before the advent of such organizations, many a small community might be torn with jealousies and factional conflict. The result on Park Ridge of the forming of these organizations has been an increase of tolerance and good will and a wider acquaintance in other communities from which we are apt to get ideas from time to time.

It is said that at the present time Park Ridge has sixty various organizations. Is the community over-organized? Should not some one start a stay-at-home movement? If we decided that we were over-organized, what could we do about it? A woman moved here from a village once, and no one called on her. She did not know our folk ways so she induced her husband to move away. Perhaps a community like ours must have a lot of organizations.

Chapter 45

Depression Hits Park Ridge

OUR COMMUNITY was riding high, wide and handsome back in 1928. Everybody seemed to have money to spend, and everybody was happy. One's friend always had a new tip on the stock market. He whispered of some security that was sure to go up rapidly. Among these none were more popular than those of the Insull empire. Since two of the Grigsby's lived in Park Ridge, the Grisby-Grunow stock was active. Then came "Black Friday." It hardly falls within the province of this chapter to describe what happened on Wall Street. When the day was over, Americans were poorer by billions. The newspapers carried stories of millionaires jumping out of hotel windows.

This affected Park Ridge more than many suburban communities. A minister who wanted a new church edifice in one afternoon met two members who had lost a total of $125,000. In those days this amount would have erected the sanctuary desired. They said they wished they had given the money to the church. They had not lost everything, but they never again were as affluent.

Employees of Chicago concerns began to lose their jobs. Many of these had a nest egg to fall back on. But for the first and only time in its history, Park Ridge had eighty families on relief. A welfare fund supported largely by the churches, helped out. Of course the township supervisor had to use funds. The city plowed up vacant lots, and supplied seeds for gardening. A lot of food was produced that way, and some who gardened then of necessity later gardened as a happy avocation. Community Church opened the kitchen of Community House for community use. All one hot summer pressure cookers were going all day long, the church supplying the gas and a skilled director. Garden vegetables went into cans.

And here we might introduce Bessie Hayles, one of the most tireless community workers Park Ridge ever had. She was a trained nurse and saw to it that none of the canned goods were poisonous. This is the Bessie Hayles who put in so many years as leader of the Campfire Girls.

The national effort with the WPA reached down into Park Ridge. At first men were raking leaves on country roadsides, which debased their sense of the dignity of labor. A crew was brought to Park Ridge to repair our streets. This would have been good if the boss of the crew had known anything about the job. Party workers moved among these unfortunate men to warn them to vote for the party that gave them their jobs. It was an ugly episode in American life. Now, no matter what party is in power, we have the projects planned and the engineers to execute them.

The professional people felt the pinch. We are sure that one preacher in the community had his salary five months in arrears with two sons in the university. He took debenture bonds in payment. There was no money to pay the teachers, but they were given tax anticipation warrants. Then the community had to organize to buy these from the teachers. One could buy gas with them for the family car. Early in the depression banks over the country began to fail with disastrous effects on families that had savings for a rainy day. Some banks paid off the depositors and quit business, like the one in Edison Park. At last it came the turn of the Park Ridge State Bank. This institution had for many years served the community alone, having been opened to the public in 1911. Now it had competition, but it was hardly this that made it close. Eventually it paid its depositors about 85%, but that did not help Park Ridgers with their Christmas shopping that year.

Some people think of businessmen as people "hard as nails." A whole chapter could be written to disprove that, so far as Park Ridge businessmen are concerned. In the depression a wholesale drug firm closed the doors of our leading drug store, that of George Scharringhausen. His friends rallied around him, and soon he was open again. He left at his death the largest prescription business on the northwest side, and most of the physicians sent their business there.

"George" paid this debt to the community a thousand times. He gave freely of his time to Kiwanis, where he was once president; to the Masonic lodge, where he was master; to Community Church, where he held many offices; and to the Chamber of Commerce. In his lifetime it could never be told, but he contributed generously to every church in town. His benefactions to individuals are known only to God. So the big depression really made George Scharringhausen. It takes fire to make steel. By the side of this story could be placed several more, but the time is not ripe.

We have noted that the schools were in trouble in depression days. So were the churches. They all had new buildings with big mortgages. The mortgage holders did not want to renew. Community Church was particularly vulnerable, for it was in the heart of the business district with valuable land holdings. Under the leadership of L. R. Brink, the church arranged with an insurance company to issue policies on the lives of members who made contributions to the mortgage. The property was saved. The Masonic Lodge Corporation followed a similar course. Charles Forbrich had to do a second campaign for Community Church, but one unforgettable night the mortgage-burning ceremony was held. The other churches were able to save their properties from foreclosure, but it was a close squeak.

When at last it was over, men began to take a fresh look at the business world. They noted that the men whose business interests were in Park Ridge had prospered even in the depression. It was soon afterward that men founded some of the leading businesses of the community, and it is these, and not the stock market speculators, that are now the well-to-do citizens of the community.

Park Ridge had no suicides from the depression, but God and at least one minister know how close we came to it. Men settled down to hard work and adopted reasonable standards of living. The report on family income makes this one of the leading communities of the northwest side, but it was not always so.

The sound of the hammer stopped in the depression days. For a while there were a good many unfinished houses, particularly on the south side in "Spanish-town." But gradually work started again, for there was population pressure that made this necessary.

Since the history of Park Ridge is really the story of the development of a community soul, we must count the big depression as a great element in making the city what it is. The fires of adversity burned out a great deal that is no good for any community. It taught the citizens new forms of cooperation and brought about a new sense of our dependence on each other. Perhaps we cannot yet say, "Thank God for the depression," but maybe we will learn sometime.

Chapter 46

Changes in Religious Ideas

OUR CITY is constantly affected by changes on the outside and a few times has led in such changes, for we do not live in a vacuum. It has been noted that for forty years religion was in the doldrums here. Then suddenly new interest enlarged old churches, and created new ones. The preaching of two men had a good deal to do with the change. These were Dr. Elderkin, who never lived here, and Dr. Charles Clayton Morrison. Dr. Elderkin was a strong anti-war man, and his pastorate in Oak Park came to an end during World War I. As a man of conscience, he could only continue saying the things he so profoundly believed. He was a man of ability, and after eight months of preaching here he went to Duluth and other cities to occupy leading pulpits.

When he ceased coming out here, Dr. Charles Clayton Morrison, editor of *The Christian Century,* spent his Sundays for two years in Park Ridge. He was a pioneer among the Disciples in admitting to his church, on the west side of Chicago, Christians of various names and opinions. He took *The Christian Century,* a Disciples journal of small circulation, and built it up into a great organ of liberal theology. It is still easily the foremost journal of religious opinion in America.

He believed that the churches should be one, which was very congenial to the thinking of the new Community Church. Not so congenial to their thinking was his sympathy with certain new theological tendencies that were sweeping the country. He believed that there was the possibility of a theology that could be harmonized with science. He accepted a new method of biblical study that was called "the higher criticism." Thus every Sunday was a surprise to our villagers, and for the first time since it was erected the little church edifice, with its twin turrets, was filled with people, many of whom joined the church from time to time.

Not only did he influence the village with his sermons but by his music. He had Elmer Crabbs to lead the choir, and, without a pipe organ, he shaped religious thinking through the music. The churches in the past had loved to sing "There is a fountain filled with blood." Now they were singing "O God our help in ages past." Now comes an era when all the churches began to have better choirs, and better hymn selection.

Dr. Morrison was an editor of a hymn book called "Hymns for the United Church." It was widely circulated in his denomination and outside. This excellent hymn book may still be found in the churches, and it has been the mother of a movement for better hymn books in many denominations.

In the days of the religious doldrums in Park Ridge, the chief interest of religion was keeping people out of hell and getting them into heaven. Perhaps no Park Ridge preacher was ever as materialistic as some popular evangelists. The religion of the Middle West was distinctly an "other-worldly" religion.

Theoretically the two local churches had been separated theologically through the years. The strict Calvinist believed that God had chosen some to be saved and some to be lost. Those in the latter category were the more numerous. The Arminians believed that a man could choose his destiny, but these were subject to numerous backslidings. But most laymen do not know much about theology and these issues did not trouble us.

The social gospel movement of America, headed by Washington Gladden and Walter Rauschenbusch, directed the attention of religious people to society. It was concerned with poverty and human misery, and believed the churches should do the work of the Good Samaritan. We have noted that Rev. T. P. Brannum with his Community Council was concerned with human welfare.

The church activities of the time included chiefly two preaching services on Sunday, a Sunday school and a mid-week prayer meeting with the monthly meeting of the women to plan ways of supplementing the inadequate budget. The social gospel walked right into the committee rooms in this period, and church after church erected edifices adapted to the carrying on of mid-week programs of service. If these plans were sometimes mistaken, at least the churches were out of the doldrums.

It was predicted that this kind of interest would cut the nerve of evangelism. On the contrary the churches were all receiving more new members than they had ever done.

Before the new buildings came, let us see what ministers had to work with. At Community Church there was an "auditorium" and a choir room in the rear. When a dinner was held, the pews were piled in one corner of the sanctuary. To get away from that a low ceiling basement was excavated. This undermined the foundations and cracks appeared in the walls of the lovely old church. The furnaces were in this basement which toasted Sunday school children on one side. The Methodists had a basement, so they never ate in their sanctuary, but it was far too small.

New personalities came to town to provide leadership in all the churches. The crust of custom was broken up. A new day had dawned for religion in Park Ridge.

A few old customs continued from the past, like the Sunday school picnic. The children loved to ride on a hayrack a few miles and there lay out their lunches and afterwards run races for prizes. It was a day when new people thawed out and became real members of the group.

The churches had to have symbols of fellowship, so at least four of them used to join in a union Thanksgiving service, rotating among the churches with the service.

It was about this time that the ministers became conscious of the need of a more complete community coverage. While three ministers

might call on one new family, other families would receive no attention at all. It was Rev. Walter D. Spangler that worked out a system for this, and the churches all cooperated with it generously, bringing to all of them new opportunities. The committee faithfully turned over to the Catholic priest the names of all Catholics they found. He was so impressed that he offered workers for the next canvass. There used to be a lot of talk about church competition. The record for Park Ridge shows at every stage, an unusual amount of inter-church good will.

Chapter 47

A Farmer Becomes a Preacher

MEN SOMETIMES have a lot to do with the making of character in a community. Try to imagine what Springfield would have become without Abraham Lincoln. Samuel R. Guard was not that important to Park Ridge, but in the judgment of the writer he was pretty important. He should be remembered.

In 1920 he was living in a house now a part of the Pantry Restaurant. It had once been a barn, but some artist fellow, now unknown, had changed it into a home of great charm, with its great big living room. Sam and his Kathryn had come from Ohio, where he had become an alumnus of Ohio University in agriculture. His mother had been a devout Methodist, but his Kathryn had been Presbyterian. They practiced Christian unity in Community Church. Already Sam was an authority in judging farm animals at state fairs, so Sears, Roebuck & Co., engaged his services in order to relate their business interests more closely to the farmers of the Middle West.

So Sam became the founder of the radio station WLS, once owned by Sears. He had not been at this long until a great tragedy came to their home. Little Georgia developed a "strep" throat and died, as all those cases did those days. There were boys, but she was the only girl.

Kathryn founded a kindergarten in her name, for Park Ridge did not yet have a public kindergarten. And Sam became a preacher! Not professionally, for he continually said, "I am no preacher." He set up the Little Brown Church broadcast of Sunday evenings, and he usually delivered the sermons. We preachers could never get the size mail that he got. Like Amos, the farmer preacher of old, he had plain talk for present-day ills and had a lot of good sense for everyday living.

When the Community Church Workers was organized, an organization to promote church consolidations in overchurched villages all over America, he was its treasurer and had an office and secretary in our bank building. Churches sprang up over the Middle West as the secretary of the organization, the writer, followed leads supplied by the radio broadcast. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., became interested to the tune of fifty thousand dollars, and William H. Hoover of Hoover Sweeper fame, was also interested to a greater extent.

The Guards were an important influence in the erection of Community House. The committee had a variety of talents, but the Guards represented the artistic side of things. The plans were altered somewhat by a contribution of some ideas by A. Iannelli, our local sculptor. The beauty consciousness of the community had been so keen so many years that the church people were still wondering about the result of

their efforts. But Lorado Taft, the great Chicago sculptor, came and spoke in the dedication week, declaring this to be as beautiful a community house as he had ever seen.

The Guards were socially minded, and they helped guide a church through the transition days of the midweek prayer meeting to the latter days of recreation and service projects.

Sam Guard's one entrance into town politics made quite a diversion. He was made a candidate for mayor against the candidate of W. H. Malone's party. Usually the anti-Malone candidates were businessmen who could not make speeches. Sam sought, and got, a debate with the fluent Mr. Malone. A good time was had by all. Sam's humor was a good foil against the talents of the opponent. Who won the debate? That depends on whose side you were on. But it is not likely that any would assert that Sam did not put up a good case. Who was elected mayor? Not Sam. It was his last political try. It is likely that he was of more use to his community in other ways than he ever could have been in the city hall.

Sam moved away from here many years ago, and when he bought the *Breeder's Gazette*, of which he became the editor, he lived several years at Spencer, Indiana, where he had purchased a large printing plant. Later he purchased the printing plant once used by Elbert Hubbard, the home-spun American philosopher. This was located at East Aurora, N. Y. While there, Kathryn developed a cancer. He brought her back to the church she had loved so much, and in the Town of Maine Cemetery are the graves of Kathryn and Georgia. And on a certain anniversary every year there are white roses. A monument executed by Alfonso Iannelli is one of the most unique out there.

Preachers get a good deal of the credit, when churches improve and grow more modern. There has been too little recognition of the influence of laymen on their spiritual advisers. The layman keeps insisting that religion be related to a way of life. And that is true in the older churches as well as the newer ones.

In those days the town had a lot of the bosses of the Illinois Steel Company. The highest ranking of these was W. G. Jochim who lived over on Grand Boulevard. Harry Harridge, brother of the big baseball executive, was another. Messrs. Douglas, Graschel, and others might be added to the list. They were Masons and members of Community Church. When the young minister of Community Church one Sunday ignorantly blundered into a denunciation of the big steel corporation for its twelve-hour day and seven-day week, these men growled a little, but not a voice was raised against pulpit freedom. Park Ridge was growing up.

The socially-minded religion was showing an influence among the Methodists. Rev. W. S. Brannum helped to organize in Park Ridge its first Community Chest. The organization went much farther and brought to town Prof. R. E. Hieronymus, community advisor of the University of Illinois. His quiet thoughtful addresses helped Park Ridge in those days to discover what it takes to have a good community. We had lost a community nurse, but we got one again for a while. We now saw recreation as a community problem. There had been a lot of artists

here for years, but the idea of a beautiful community had hardly dawned on us yet. We got so enthusiastic on education that we shut our eyes and voted all the bond issues.

It is not likely that Park Ridge had ever seen such a time of social consciousness. This was the thing that at last put a bridle into the mouths of some politicians who were voices of hate. Community must mean tolerance, cooperation, and brotherhood.

Some false starts were made. Five churches built gymnasiums, only to abandom them when the public school went into the gymnasium business. Mary Wilson House had a swimming pool which eventually was filled with cinders. But it is by trial and error that human beings seem to learn. The churches did not abandon recreation. They just found new forms that were not competitive.

Chapter 48

Personalities That Gave Us Character

THOMAS CARLYLE thought that society was created mostly by the influence of great men, so he wrote "Heroes and Hero Worship." We do not claim we have great heroes, but we have had active, creative minds at work in various fields who have stimulated the whole community to great activity.

For a long time Dr. Frederick B. Noyes lived here in the house now occupied by Community Sunday school at Prospect and Park Place. Perhaps the citizens thought of him as the man who had the finest garden in town, for he hired a gardener, and his great lawn was a show place for the entire community. Those who admired his flowers did not always know that he was dean of the dental college of the University of Illinois. He developed a speciality known as orthodontia. This means the straightening of teeth. His methods were unique. There are dentists practicing all over the nation who studied with him. His gracious wife presided over an active household, and many affairs of the Episcopal church were planned there. In a community where occasinally a "hothead" appears, it is useful to have a cool thinking citizen like Dr. Noyes.

He had a great friend who followed the same line and who at last succeeded him as dean of the dental school. This friend lived near him. Both men have left Park Ridge, but not until they had left an intellectual heritage here. Dr. Noyes is retired in Florida, and Dr. Broadie lives in Glenview.

Dr. T. E. Conley and his brother, Dr. H. H. Conley came here about 1920, the former after a turn in the U.S. Navy. He is a surgeon whose success has kept a great many of our citizens alive through the years. He and his brother came up on a Wisconsin farm, and were of undiluted Irish ancestry. They go to mass just about every Sunday morning, but their practice has been among the Protestants of the community to a very considerable extent. Dr. H. H. has an interesting hobby. He is a circus fan. It is interesting to hear him boost the Shriner's Circus which is held every winter to help the Shriner's fund for crippled children. He is something of a philosopher also. When he got past middle life, and some signs of decline of physical power came, he said, "I am going to slow down; I do not want to be the richest doctor in the town cemetery." Disgusted one day, this devout Catholic said, "If there isn't any hell, there ought to be."

In the Gillick building is Dr. Ben Sargent, who came here as a child specialist after special training in the Children's Memorial Hospital. One would not know that for a long time he has been the health officer

of Park Ridge. When you have a good health officer, you do not know that you have one. He has a farm up at Volo. In the later years he has become a traveler. A good doctor has to be an adviser on many things besides medicine. It would be hard to chronicle the things he has done for people. By now we have a long list of doctors, many of them very competent specialists. No wonder that we have so many citizens that almost reach the hundred mark, and a few that do.

Then there was Clyde Bedell an advertising man who moved here from Evanston. His book on advertising became a best seller for the field. He became a member of Community Church, and the chimes that sound forth from that tower were put there by him. He also, in open meeting of the congregation, insisted on the installation of a pipe organ when some thought the money was not available. He was interested in an unusual little religious movement known as "Urantia"' being convinced that his four hundred in Chicago had secured a special revelation to interpret holy scripture, but this faith he held to be consistent with membership in an evangelical church. His service to the Friends of the Library was noteworthy. He went around the world twice, and his stereo pictures furnished many a profitable evening. He now lives in California.

For many winters S. J. Walpole and Arthur W. Nelson went down to Yucatan where they were interested in the archeology of the ancient Mayans. We do not remember that they ever lectured on their discoveries, but there was a growing interest that led many tourists to go to Mexico and Guatemala.

Then there was George Scharringhausen, our Main street chemist. After he finished his term as president of the Kiwanis Club, he got a group together for weekly meetings. They called themselves the Razzberry Club. This sounds like a critical or cynical group, but it served a constructive purpose. There is something wrong with every community. They would find out that something was wrong here, and the club would start to remedy it. The most skilled connoisseur of tobaccos in town, his place was headquarters for Christmas cigars. We know lonely people that used to go in there just to be enlivened by his wit. Elsewhere we have chronicled his secret benefactions, and his hundreds of personal kindnesses. No man lives as he did without leaving his image on the community.

Of course, we have had a good many women who stamped personality on the community. There was Bessie Hayles, long time Sunday school leader, many years head of the Campfire Girls of Park Ridge, secretary of the library board, ex-president of Community Circle and mixed up in a great many community enterprises. After losing her husband, Frank Hayles, she moved to Excelsior Springs, Missouri, and now is in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, somewhat damaged by illnesses, but she is still the old-time Bessie. She was versatile enough to become a farmer several years.

Mrs. Frank Parsons was our community poet. She and her husband, after their retirement, drove a trailer around the rim of the United States. She was prominent in the Twentieth Century Club. At her

Golden Wedding celebration she had a better idea than reading the ceremony of her first wedding day. She produced a unique document, unlike any the writer ever saw.

Then there is Herbert Taylor, self-made business man, who has created the Club Aluminum organization. His cookware is to be found in the big stores. But he has been more interested in Christian work than in his personal profits. His basement is fitted up for the "Youth for Christ" young people's meetings, and he probably gives away more than he keeps. It was he and his wife who put the stained glass windows into the Methodist Church.

This story could go on for many pages, but we must mention at least one more. We have Dr. Edward G. Olsen, and his gracious wife, who have lived here fewer years than the others, but who are already giving us much of their gracious and tolerant spirit. He is the educational director of the Conference of Christians and Jews. They have recently returned from Rhodesia, Africa, where they spent many months.

Chapter 49

Fame Beyond Park Ridge

THE ALUMNI association of the our high school owes it to us to provide stories of former Maine students that have achieved fame beyond Park Ridge. It is a teasing field of research and we might suggest it to the present students of Maine.

We can mention one, Helen Grigsby, who is now known as Helen Doss. She married a Methodist minister, and lived in a parsonage up at Hebron, Ill., when their first big disappointment came. The Doss family would never have any children. They tried to secure children to adopt from the regular established agencies, but were turned down, among the reasons being that a village Methodist minister could not afford to adopt children!

Finally, they began adopting children of different races until at last they had twelve. They moved to California where climate made such crowded living more nearly possible. This family bore a witness against interracial prejudice. Some of us think that it bore a witness to the child-placing agencies also.

When things got a little hard for the Doss household, Helen got out a book, "The Family That Nobody Wanted." It immediately caught on. One Christmas the TV people put this family on the air, and as a result help began to arrive that has greatly improved the opportunities of these children. Helen still writes books, but she has never forgotten Maine, nor her Park Ridge church (Community), nor her early religious ideals. How many more success stories could be written about Maine graduates? Doubtless there are many.

We are thinking about the people who live in Park Ridge who have become known nationally or internationally. Alexander M. Harley recently reached the time for retirement, but before this he started a movement of musical people that is now international in scope. It is called Modern Music Masters. This organization is chartered in 46 states and some foreign countries. It challenges students to greater efforts, encourages solo and ensemble performances, recognizes personal achievements, and promotes better public relations. It inspires students to higher ideals of service. Mr. Harley is the international president. He is listed in "Who's Who in American Education."

He has been for many years the song leader in the local Kiwanis Club, and often has been called on to lead the music on public occasions. In retirement he is developing new skills, and he gives travel talks and performs other community services. He served Maine for thirty years.

Mr. Harley organized the Maine Music Boosters Parents in 1931. In 1933 he organized the Park-Plaines Community Symphony Orchestra, and was its director for eight years. This is now the Northwest Symphony Orchestra. In 1947 he started the annual Christmas performance of the "Messiah," by Handel, using his high school orchestra and chorus, assisted by artist soloists. At times he has directed church choirs in the community. The unique thing about Harley is that he is a propagandist for music.

Another personality has made our city known outside. Alfonso Iannelli, sculptor, has spent most of his adult life here, but much of his work has been done in Chicago. He worked with Frank Lloyd Wright on the Midway Gardens. Mr. Iannelli contributed to the Adler Planetarium, the Century of Progress Exposition, the Radio Building entrance, Thermometer Tower, the Goodyear building, and Children's Theater and Magic Island. He was often called to make contributions to church plans as he did with Community Church when Community House was erected. The west end of that building was shaped by his plans.

The studio of Mr. Iannelli on Northwest highway was also involved in the Industrial Art School in Chicago. Our sculptor was head of the design department of the Chicago Art Institute for many years. This activity is now carried on by the Illinois Institute of Technology.

In Park Ridge two of our fountains were designed by Mr. Iannelli, the one in Hodges Park, presented by Miss Blackwell to the Campfire Girls, and another at the Country Club called the Wickwire Memorial Fountain.

During the war two great pageants were organized by the American Legion with cooperation of Alexander M. Harley and Alfonso Iannelli. Great throngs of Park Ridgers and their neighbors attended these pageants.

Perhaps this is the place to mention the pageants of the Life of Lincoln that were organized and presented to the community under the leadership of Rev. George Truman Carl. He was a member of the American Legion Post, and made a specialty of the life of Lincoln. His study at the local Methodist Church was filled with Lincoln mementoes.

Under his leadership the local Methodist Church secured a great many new members. It developed a staff to care for these members. Dr. Carl spoke on many public occasions. While here, he made a trip to the Holy Land, and brought back pictures which were used to make the Bible stories more real.

When he left Park Ridge, he changed places with the Dr. Lloyd T. Gustafson, who had been located in an Iowa church. Dr. Carl still returns on occasion for funerals and weddings.

Among those with more than a little interest in the child life of the community was Max Levy who built a little theater in his basement, and often filled it with children who were his guests. He was active in Legion affairs. He helped with two big war pageants that were presented by Iannelli and Harley.

If we are to acknowledge that our citizens have gone to foreign parts for distinguished service, we must name Noah Pearcy, who for the past five years has been the chief engineer at Sao Paulo, Brazil, in the installation of hydro-electric power. This city is growing at an enormous rate, and their problem of electric supply has been a very trying one. There is little coal in South America so much of the electricity of their cities is generated by water power, or by burning petroleum.

Noah Pearcy was once superintendent of Community Sunday School and president of Community Men's Club. He gets a vacation every two years of two months, and always includes Park Ridge in his vacation travels. He visits in Park Ridge homes. He is an officer in the Community Church of Sao Paulo.

It would be an interesting project to get a report of our Florida citizens who still take our town paper, and come back here from time to time to visit. Through them some of our Park Ridge ideas are exported to new cities growing up in Florida. Our high school students are always looking for writing projects that include research. We have enough Park Ridge people in California that Dr. Stead, former pastor of Community Church, used to gather them for an annual reunion.

In Florida the central spot is Passe-a-Grille Beach where Dr. George Greene went after his heart attack. He got well, and has doubled the membership of his Community-Congregational Church. Tourists go to church there, and former Parkridgers visit him, for his life is a magnet for friendly souls.

Chapter 50

Artists An Increasing Group

IN A FORMER chapter we have noted that a half century ago there came to Park Ridge people that either made a living in producing artistic objects or were amateurs in art with considerable devotion. This interest never died out, but with the years it began to take on new forms. On the highway a gifted man of Italian extraction, Alfonso Iannelli, established a studio many years ago.

In the same generation was W. F. McGaughey, an architect, who moved in the direction of the artistic, for there must be something of the engineer and something of the artist in a good architect. McGaughey, as noted elsewhere had some original engineering ideas in the production of the Pickwick Theater, but the building is by all odds the most attractive theater building on the northwest side.

But McGaughey was not satisfied to be an architect. He became a painter, and he exhibits his paintings every year, sometimes in Chicago and sometimes in Galena. He lived many years in Park Ridge, and still maintains a business office here, but the home of his deepest affection is near Galena, Illinois, where he has had a studio and where he was a consultant in making Galena over into a second Williamsburg, reminiscent of the days of Ulysses S. Grant. Among his latest contributions to Park Ridge architecture were the All-American building and the Public Library. His untimely death by accident, stirred the community deeply.

Another individual who made a significant contribution has been Eugene Romeo, who established a studio on Courtland. He was a sculptor who went in for portrait painting also. His bas-relief of the Christ in the Crego Chapel of Community Church has been duplicated in the Community Congregational Church of Pass-a-Grille, Florida, where Dr. George Greene is now the minister. He placed the bas-relief of the Reformers in Park Ridge Community Church, pictures of which have gone around the world. There are two more bas-reliefs placed in the Ellinger transept of this church in memory of three generations of Argabrite men. He made extensive contributions to some Catholic churches of Chicago, and to a Presbyterian church of Gary. His untimely death was a great community loss.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ransley, who through a half century lived on Clinton street, produced portraits that have had wide acceptance, two of which hang in the library of Park Ridge Community Church. These are in memory of Dr. Orvis F. Jordan and Dr. George Greene, former ministers. The Ransleys also taught painting, and they had a considerable class of students every year. They have travelled in Europe

that they might study the work of the old masters. And now Frank Ransley has finished his earthly labors.

Most of Park Ridge has become familiar with the work of Mrs. Tom Whitson who has specialized on landscapes. For many years her summers in the dunes at the south end of Lake Michigan resulted in new pictures which now adorn a good many homes about the city.

This is by no means the full story of gifted individuals living here, but within limited space it is enough to explain how it came that the Artists' League was organized in 1942. Mrs. W. H. Gilkes, wife of a retired banker, came to town, and she also was a painter. Being a gracious lady of social gifts, she brought artists together in her home on Ashland Avenue. Along with Mrs. Frank Taylor and Mrs. Tom Whitson, she conceived the organization of one of our most vigorous groups. Mrs. Ransley and Mrs. Whitson wrote the constitution of the organization.

It was in 1952 that the outdoor exhibitions in Hodges Park were first established. By 1959 the park was filled on certain days with exhibitions and with citizens interested in the work. Among the exhibitors may be some from other communities, but not many. This is a fair indication of the growing interest in the beautiful in the community, which is not to be matched in any other community of the northwest side.

The Artists' League in 1959 had about 200 members. They have a project which is to provide each year a scholarship for some art student who has been graduated from our high school. So the organization has some money-making activities. The person selected is a Maine student of distinction.

The community has citizens who make their living in pursuits that depend upon artistic ability, like Rodney Ruth, who is an illustrator, or Julius Randahl, who produces artistic objects in silver. The community has also been the home of high school teachers of Chicago, who have exercised an influence on community standards. These include Dorothy Jordan, Helen Unseth and Ruth Mitchell.

A modernistic type of church architecture had been developed by a Park Ridge architect, Wm. Cooley, and when St. Andrew's new edifice was completed, the pictures of it influenced church construction all over the country. The older Gothic, Colonial, and Romanesque structures are being superseded by this new type, and the only motive is not economic, though this is doubtless a factor. The new Redeemer Lutheran sanctuary is of this type.

The Garden Club of Park Ridge is much older than the Artists' League, and it also has been a factor in making the community beauty conscious. The visitor who drives through the streets is impressed with the number of front yards that blaze in beautiful colors, and the visitor who is admitted to some of the patios in the rear is deeply impressed. Each spring the Garden Club provides a sale of plants at Hodges Park that enables the citizens to secure the right plants, and guidance is given the amateur gardeners.

Credit must be given to the city government in recent years in its efforts to get owners of vacant lots to keep the weeds down, and the

war on "litterbugs" who throw trash in the city streets is commendable.

There is no organization of the women interested in "antiques." But the antique objects that these citizens prize are not just old things; they must be beautiful as well. Park Ridge Community Women's Circle has a two day exhibition at which exhibitors from the outside come every year to show their wares. Tours are made of homes that have collected these objects. Prominent among those that cultivate this interest are Mr. and Mrs. Russell B. Griess, Miss Edna Barnett and Mrs. Hobart Harden.

The shops and restaurants of the community have responded to this community mood, so that people come here from far and wide to eat in such distinctive places as the Pantry and the Tallyho, and to shop in stores that offer merchandise that is beautiful. Thus through a half century or more the city has been acquiring a quality that makes it a very distinctive place through its appreciation of the beautiful.

Chapter 51

Extension of the Public Service

THE VAST changes of a quarter of a century may be studied by a description of what has happened in the extension of public service. L. G. Raymer was postmaster in 1924, and he reported that the income of the local post office at that time was $16,500. This figure increased to $26,300 in 1927, which our genial postmaster talked about a good deal as indicating the growth and vitality of the community. He said that in 1926 we had 5 carriers and 3 clerks. In 1928 there were 10 carriers and 4 clerks. As has been pointed out, this was in the decade of the most rapid growth that Park Ridge ever had. Of course, it was also in a period when many organizations were going into direct mail advertising to get their message across.

Our present postmaster, John R. Simpson, was appointed about seven years ago, when "Mike" Sullivan retired and went to Florida. Now he reports that the staff the summer of 1959 had 4 supervisors, 23 clerks, 42 carriers and 2 custodians. That adds up to a total of 68 people as against the 14 that managed to carry the load in 1928. The population growth is not in that proportion. What has brought about this great increase in the mail business for Uncle Sam? The express companies have about gone out of business in this area, and parcel post has had a vast increase. There have come into the community some large insurance companies, like All-American and Aetna, across from Hodges Park, the General Mills company and other large businesses, and these have brought with them each a staff that lives in the community.

Besides this, Park Ridge has developed two large shopping areas, the one on Devon and the other called the Village Green on Busse Highway. Each cluster of stores has a considerable mail business. Our new post office building went up in 1937, and already they say it is too small.

At O'Hare Airport the servicemen get their mail through the Park Ridge post office. Our post office handles the high school mail from this area, which has considerable bulk. An examination of the postal bills of our local churches would indicate how much these institutions use the mail as compared with a few years ago.

The change in our city government from the old system of operating through a mayor's office to the city manager system, is also very significant.

Their record shows that it was in the administration of Dr. Haake that this change came. It was opposed by a part of the council, but the matter came up again and again. Dr. Haake spoke all over the

nation as the public relations man of General Motors, and was often out of town for considerable periods of time. This created the need of a manager.

The matter first was brought to the council in 1945. After four years of study, the plan was rejected by the council June 21, 1949. However, at another meeting on July 5, 1949, the plan was accepted on a tentative basis. On January 3, 1950, DeSoto B. McCabe was chosen. He took office on February 7, the same year. He was succeeded by James B. Galloway who took office in November, 1953.

Mr. Galloway considers this a job for a man of some engineering skills, for many of the tasks of the city are really engineering jobs. When water gets scarce in the summer, there is something to be done about it. However, this something turns out to be a public relations job, for if the citizens are to be influenced to save some of the water for baths instead of putting it all on the lawns, that involves some knowledge of mass psychology.

Is he the boss of the police and fire departments? He would not like to phrase it that way. His is a job of coordinator, so he is not quite like the manager of a big corporation in the city, though he really does have more authority than some would believe. He does not assert it very often. Does this result in economy? Mr. Galloway asserts that the first objective is efficiency in city service, and that results in true economy.

Many citizens do not understand the relations of the various taxing bodies under Illinois law. Some of these taxing bodies are entirely autonomous, and some are only partly so. The trustees of the public library prepare and administer a budget, but the city council has a right to cut this budget, though this does not often happen. The grade school board and the high school board are autonomous bodies that are independent of the Park Ridge city council. The Park board also gathers a lot of taxes in a year, but has only friendly relations with the other taxing bodies.

Going back to the activities of the central government of our city, it does directly control the police and the fire departments. Since the police department has already been studied, let us examine the fire department. It has a very long history, but for many years of its early history it was a purely voluntary organization, and many of the leading citizens of the long ago were active in it, including Halbert H. Porter, mortician and Bert Hams, baker and later city assessor. The present head is Norman Brown.

A few years ago a new city building was erected which at present houses the equipment of the fire department and upstairs is a room once used as the council chamber. In the latter room, other meetings are sometimes held. The council now meets in the Public Library. In the business district in recent years the Lewis Perkins warehouse went up in flames, and the building owned by W. C. Robinson on Prospect, but in each case the department was able to put out the fire without having it spread to adjacent buildings.

The program of the Park Board may be said to have evolved from the activities of the old tennis club. The grounds at Talcott and Cumberland are flooded in the winter for ice skating.

For many years, W. W. Hinckley was the head of the Park board. Since he owned his business he went to work daily until in the middle nineties. In his home on Courtland Avenue were held the meetings of party leaders of those who opposed the Better Government Party. Later O. K. Wilson took charge of the Park programs along with his duties at the high school. The board has in very recent years developed the west side field house, the swimming pool, and baseball park on Busse, and the new park and outdoor program off Northwest highway.

These programs are by no means only for children. The west side field house has had a number of meetings for the senior citizens. It is a meeting place for the Woman's Club.

These great changes in the past twenty-five years and less are an indication of the growing amount of socialization that is now a part of the community. Commercial recreation has tended to decrease in the past few years as we discovered in our study of the local theater. However, in the old theater on Vine avenue we have a skating rink as a private enterprise. To list other recreational activities that are privately owned would hardly be possible within our space limits. There is a lot of change in our ways of doing things.

Chapter 52

City Government Is Improved

AFTER THE storm and stress period in Park Ridge politics, there came an era when men of all parties sought ways in which to give the growing city better service. Perhaps the biggest single step taken was the adoption of the city code in 1928. This is contained in a volume of 250 pages, so it is obviously impossible for a history such as ours to make many quotations from it. The code was still in use in 1959 with but few amendments. In this code, the attendance of aldermen at city council meetings is "compelled." There is another offense besides absence which is dealt with sternly: "Any aldermen acting, or appearing, in a disgraceful manner, or who shall use opprobrious or insulting language to or about any alderman, or who does not obey the order of the mayor when said council shall be in session, shall be, on motion, censured by a majority vote of the aldermen present, or expelled by a two-thirds vote of all aldermen elected." There must have been a background to this item of the code.

The growth of municipal activities may be seen by the provision for the appointment of the following city officers: building commissioner, city physician, health inspector, plumbing inspector, oil inspector, electrical inspector, inspector of weights and measures and plan commission.

Like all legal codes, after a term of years, this one has provisions more honored in the breach than the observance, such as this one: "It shall be unlawful to play any games on any street." Or this one: "Any tree or srub which overhangs any public sidewalk or street in such a way as to impede traffic or travel on such sidewalk or street, shall be trimmed by the owner of the abutting premises so that the obstruction shall cease." Or here is another one: "All houses in the city shall be numbered in accordance with the numbering provisions of this article. Each of the figures of every number shall be at least three inches in length, and shall be of such material and color, as to be easily and distinctly read from a distance of twenty feet." Did you ever find house numbers covered up with paint and totally illegible?

It was a distinct step forward when the pumping station and city hall in the triangle made by Touhy and Northwest Highway was torn down. It would be hard to conceive such a monstrosity, now that it is gone. About this time a big underground reservoir for water was constructed, which provided for the emergency that a big fire would produce. This made necessary city buildings, so the old Carpenter home was made over into headquarters for the city officers and the police department. At this time headquarters for the fire department were

erected on Meachem Avenue south of the Northwest Highway, and upstairs in this new building was established a room for public meetings.

This code barred the coming of factories of certain classes within the city limits. These are forbidden by the code: "Foundries, rendries, packing plants, tallow chandleries, silk factories, tanneries, and glue factories." It is also forbidden to operate a factory "for the manufacture of fireworks, gunpowder, glycerine, or other similar explosives." The fourth provision of the code provides a lot of leeway for the Council: "Unwholesome or offensive manufacturing establishments constitute class four factories." These are forbidden.

Twice in the code gambling is forbidden within the city limits. Few would say that this provision has been enforced. The zoning laws and the building code provisions have often occasioned much debate, but it has been better to have some kind of a code, though it has been revised frequently.

Another big step forward was taken when a city manager was called to service. The city does not understand very well yet what a city manager is. He is a kind of combination of engineer, financial expert, and public relations man. He is the administrative officer of the city on its projects. He can be overruled by the city council, which determines the policies of the city, or he can be employed or discharged by them. Yet in practice the activities of the municipality are in the hands of the city manager. But what does the mayor do? He makes many appointments, subject to the advice and consent of the council. He interprets ordinances and issues many of the licenses. He signs many legal papers. He has power to remove from office any one appointed by him. He speaks for the city on public occasions. He has never been paid a salary of any consequence. In days before the city manager system came into use, he was often out of the city and busy with his own affairs when he was needed at home.

In 1924 Mayor Cole investigated the idea of a city manager, but it seemed that the city was hardly large enough to carry the expense. During the administration of Mayor Haake, James Galloway came here from Marshall, Missouri. An incident of his service here will show that the support of such a man may be an economy for the city. He discovered a loss of 100,000 gallons of water a day in one single water leak. It is no wonder that he discovered leaks. On Vine Avenue his men dug up the remains of a wooden water main. The city no longer had maps of the location of some of the old sewers. Therefore water supply and sewerage bulked large among his duties.

If the citizens did not understand municipal policies, he was useful in explaining them. If the citizens were not convinced, they had, of course, recourse to the ballot box.

Through the years the functions of a municipality have steadily grown. First came the use of police power to keep men and property safe. Then the hazard of fire made necessary a fire department, which at first in most communities is made up of volunteers. Then the opening of streets and sidewalks and keeping these clear for use were obligations. Water could be supplied by private enterprise, but in Park Ridge it has been a municipal function now performed in cooperation with the

water department of the city of Chicago. Keeping streets open has involved snow removal, removal of trees that blocked traffic, and removal of trash and dirt from the streets.

The city sometimes cuts the weeds on an unsightly lot and charges the owner for the service. In general, the work that can best be performed on a city basis is done that way, though strictly speaking this is the kind of thing that is sometimes called "socialism."

When the era of stress and strain ended, there was often a dearth of information on city policies. People would no longer go to political meetings. The only way open to educate the citizenry was through the community newspapers. If only the meetings had been fair and courteous, perhaps they would have been a good thing.

Chapter 53

The City's Central Site

SINCE A blacksmith shop and junk yard occupied the block north of the railroad station, there has been a lot of conversation about what the center of the city should be like. Smaller cities have often been built around a park, while larger ones are solid at the center. Through the years there have been two schools of thought about this.

After the blacksmith shop disappeared and the Central school was erected, there came a fire that destroyed this building. It was partially rebuilt, but afterwards the public school leadership thought that there was too much traffic for this to be a good school site, and new buildings were erected far out from the old Central site.

A planning committee met for a considerable time and turned up a plan for the development of the inner city. Prominent among the planners was Arthur Consoer and Alfonso Ianelli. The discussion of this plan seemed to increase the difference of opinion, and it was not carried out.

As the school board was reaching the end of its bonding power, it had to consider getting rid of this block of land which was obviously a very valuable property. Should it be sold to some great commercial interests in Chicago and covered with skyscraper stores, or should it become a park?

It is here that we are indebted to a former mayor, Dr. Haake, for an account of the city's struggle over this matter. He is not the only one living in Florida who has helped in providing material for this history. He has given us much inside information with regard to the city hall in the eight years of his administration, some of which will throw light upon the matter of the Central School property. He gives a generous tribute to his city attorney Herbert Stoffels, who has continued in that office until the present time, and to a city treasurer Ralph Schuettge, of the opposing party, who worked with the mayor in the interest of the city.

As the question of the Central School property was studied, it was obvious to nearly everybody that it was not the duty of the school board to provide the city with a park. The school board needed the money that this land could be sold for in order to erect badly needed buildings elsewhere.

The citizen who hoped for lower taxes was on the side of selling the property to big stores, for these would provide a tax income every year, and this would tend to relieve the householder. The records show that many of the businessmen of the town were in favor of selling the

property to Chicago interests. Probably not all of them were in favor of this move, for some of them would have suffered from dangerous competition. But even one big department store would bring in a lot of shoppers from adjacent suburbs.

The people opposed to using the school site for business purposes pointed out that there would be a serious parking problem. Already there was the beginning of parking on the property, and when the parking meters came in, there was now a chance of a considerable revenue of another sort.

The possibility of a civic building where public meetings could be held was also a consideration. So the debate went on for a considerable time. Former Mayor Haake gives City Attorney Stoeffels much credit for working out the plan of the legal transfer of the property to the city while providing the school board a considerable sum for their new building project. After discussion in public meetings and in the local press, this transfer came up in the form of a bond issue for the vote of the citizens. By a decisive vote, it was settled that the Central School site should belong to the city. The transfer to the city is dated April 28, 1950. For a while the land was a public park. It was not until January 12, 1958, that the new public library was dedicated. By this time a very considerable part of the property had parking meters which were used by people employed in Chicago who paid a fee of twenty-five cents a day. A good many people from other suburbs have come to use these meters.

This was not so long ago, but already it is possible to see that this decision of the citizens was to have a great deal to do with the development of the business interests of the city. Instead of business being confined to the central part of the city, it spread out into a number of shopping centers of considerable size. The Gillick brothers developed a group of stores in a section between Devon and Talcott and west of Prospect. With this development they had provided parking space which had no meters. The buildings were soon occupied both by chain stores and by privately owned businesses. This seemed to start quite a development across the street.

Another development on Busse highway was called the Village Green. Here was even more parking space along with a group of stores, most of them connected with a chain. One of the largest and finest A. & P. stores in the Middle West is to be found here. At the corner of Northwest Highway and Oakton is another group of stores, some with parking space and some without.

In the winter of 1959-60, the central part of town had several vacant stores for the first time in years. The signs on these stores indicate an absentee ownership. It seems likely that the owners have priced themselves out of the market. Nothing can change the fact that the railroad station is in the center of town, which will always give this area an advantage over the outlying shopping centers.

One wonders what would have happened if fifty years ago the railroad people had depressed their tracks. At certain times of day the Prospect street crossing has a line of cars waiting to get across the tracks. This fact will be a hindrance to centrally located business for a long

time. However, the presence of the post office a block away from the depot also tends to make the central point of Park Ridge the corner of Main and Prospect. Thus it may be seen that a decision about the use of the old Central School property had some far-reaching effects. Park Ridge might have become as congested at its center as is Oak Park. Instead, we have made room for a lot of small businesses, the owners of which will in the years to come live in the community and command the loyalty and affection of their neighbors.

Space in the center of town had already been provided by the acquisition of the old Carpenter home which has served for many years as the town hall. The triangle of land on which this building is located also accommodates an underground pumping station. When the city gets around to erecting a city hall, there will be plenty of space around this edifice. It seems settled that to the end of the day Park Ridge will have breathing space at the center. At various spots around the edges, the Park Board has secured land for the recreation of the citizens and for the adornment of the city.

Chapter 54

The Second World War

"HITLER HAS marched into Poland" was the news we picked up on the way back from vacation on September 1, 1939. We were more serious than we had been in 1914, for now we knew that our world was small enough that we might become involved. But it took over two years for this to happen. We read our newspapers that two years with the greatest interest. Russia was on the German side until Hitler changed his attitude toward this nation. These were days of prosperity in America, for we had a gluttonous market to supply in Europe. But there was a grim determination in America to stay out of this world war, though our activities in the Atlantic ocean were provocative.

We came home from church on December 7, 1941, and tuned in the radio. Excited voices were announcing that Pearl Harbor had been attacked. We could not believe at first that our entire fleet in that harbor had been destroyed by the Japanese air force. Did not the Japanese government have in this country an ambassador that was seeking peace? With our Pacific fleet destroyed, how far would Japanese aggression go? It was a sad Sunday afternoon in Park Ridge, as in every other American city.

Whatever political differences there had been, the nation responded almost unanimously, as did Park Ridge. We were concerned with the ritual of patriotism as well as with the thing itself. A careless citizen had his hat knocked off when he failed to remove it as the flag went by in a patriotic parade.

The patriotic sentiment was not quite unanimous. In a tavern on the edge of Park Ridge, a group of Nazi sympathizers met from time to time, and at least one of these was employed in a war plant in Chicago. The city as a whole went in for loyal cooperation with the war effort.

It was not long until we had a draft board, headed by C. A. Hall, which met in the Pickwick building. Soon many of our younger citizens were in the armed forces. Many of them went to the Pacific area and were half the way around the world from home.

This time our war casualties were far greater than in the First World War, partly because our city was much larger. Instead of seven markers to tell the story of our war losses, as at the end of the First World War, this time we erected a great plaque filled with the names, both of those who came home and those who did not. And this stands in Hodges Park where it is often studied by our citizens.

The changes that war made in our community life were many. The rationing of gasoline was an important fact. A few people were in privileged occupations. but mostly we had gasoline coupons for only the most necessary travel. Automobiles did not wear out so quickly, and this affected business.

Many items of merchandise ceased to be obtainable, such as refrigerators, for we had to use our steel in the war effort. To make a list of the business changes that came to our community as a result of the war effort would be a burdensome task. Our sacrifices were accepted with resignation.

From the front came the news of our losses. A young woman with a baby was notified that her husband had been killed defending a bridge in France. It took some time for us to provide care for such stricken families.

Once more Park Ridge began to have gardens. To produce more food was something that many could do to further the war effort. But we did not go back into the chicken business as in the First World War. There was a concern for economy. The king of England had announced he used only five inches of water in his bathtub. We had our own ways of practicing the economies that would further the war effort.

In the churches and on the public platform, we were doing our bit to set forth the American philosophy. It was democracy against totalitarianism. Without doubt all America profited intellectually in those days from this consideration of our political philosophy. But we have never made the thorough-going job of it that the communists have.

The sale of war bonds to our citizens was easily accomplished. We did not then realize that the aftermath of war is inflation. So these bonds were later paid with a cheaper dollar, and the life insurance policies of the war-time and earlier also suffered from our economic changes.

The architecture of Park Ridge can also be dated by certain epochs. The town was growing, and we had to have new houses. In this period we built a lot of houses that were cubic, the very cheapest kind of construction. These succeeded the Spanish type houses, which were more expensive to build. These war houses went up in brick, which was a less expensive type of construction when wood became scarce.

The churches had a conspicuous part in the community's effort during the war days. Available to the writer are the files of the Community Church News which contain accounts of various activities which were carried on not only by this church, but by most of the churches of the community.

Here is the story of a program which was put on by a church group up at Waukegan, mostly for sailors. This helped to maintain morale. The ministers were available for speaking to groups of servicemen, and also on special occasions to the civilians at home, for the patriotic cause needed interpretation and the people needed encouragement. The news from the front at first was far from good.

The churches tried to keep in touch with their young men. In our issue of the above mentioned paper is a list of young men of the church giving their addresses in various parts of the world. Letters came back

from them which could not always be published. A youth of tender age in the Pacific area was about ready to go over the top. He wrote his pastor a pathetic letter, for he expected to be killed. But he was not!

Here is a church that devotes its basement space and a lot of its woman power to the making of Red Cross supplies. Those who kept their fingers busy were apt to maintain courage, for it was hard to wait for the outcome of the struggle when loved ones were at the front.

And in this journal is an editorial on the Spartan spirit in wartime. This judgment is good for other situations than war: "We do not win through by bitter campaigns of hate. Our ultimate goal is peace with righteousness. It is the only peace that will last. It is possible to fight and yet be fair. Our enemies are not 'beasts,' but men of like passions and weaknesses with ourselves. If we are to deliver our children from the ghastly horrors of this present war, we must have a temper for a peace that will last . . . Nor must we forget God in these times. If our present troubles are due to our sins, let us acknowledge it. There is a Hand in human history that exalts men and abases them."

Chapter 55

Churches Build Community Spirit

THE OLDER historic churches began to be community builders while the city was still quite small. The sense of "community" helps people to work together for common ends and creates the spirit of cooperation. A police officer once said, "If the churches closed down, we should have to double our force." This was true enough, but many of the forms of community service were born in church meetings.

Community Church took its name from a nomenclature very popular during World War I. We had community chests and various kinds of community drives. As the new, independent, interdenominational church cast about for a name, it hit upon "Community," though the full implications of that choice did not at first dawn upon the people. Soon the minister and members were reading "Community Organization" by the Steiner of Duke University, who dealt with communities from the standpoint of community service. So Community Church became committed to the idea of developing community-service programs and to carrying them out when this could not be done by the whole community. As we have seen in the biography of Samuel Guard, a national propaganda went out from here by radio and religious newspaper that shaped other Community Churches in important ways and led to the formation of "The Community Church Movement," now a recognized part of the fellowship of the Church Federation of Greater Chicago.

This was not all talk, for the Men's Club of the church had programs that related their thinking to local problems. This club today has wheel chairs and hospital beds for free loan to families that need them. The church has many times supplied blood for surgical cases. Through a quarter of a century, no member of this church has had to draw upon public relief, for there has been a welfare fund in the hands of the pastor. He has had complete control of it. This has enabled distressed persons to find a way out of trouble. The churches gave support to the schools in their bond issue campaigns, and other community-building projects have been initiated or supported.

We have already noted that the Methodists have had preachers of the community-building type.

Since so much church work has an element of privacy to it, the writer is not well prepared to tell of Methodist service to the community, but he is glad to say that this virile church has also been a community-serving church, in the proper use of the term.

The Episcopal church has had some fine men for rectors, but for a long time Rev. John Hubbard will bulk large in their history. He was

a Princeton graduate who became an Episcopalian while serving a Presbyterian church at Escanaba, Michigan. How he became a 33rd degree Freemason has been noted. He was popular in groups of servicemen. His travels took him over large areas, yet he seemed to have time to carry the holy communion to the sick every day. When he left the Presbyterian Church, he brought some of his spiritual goods along.

For ten years he had leukemia, but this was known only to him and his physician. He did not want to worry anybody. When he made the last of his many trips to the hospital, he must have known that his hour had come. He had made his peace with death and was not afraid. At his funeral the town turned out to pay its tribute of love to a spiritual leader of great power.

The Lutheran churches have been described in another chapter, and there remain only those organizations which are relatively new.

During the past forty years, the Church Federation of Greater Chicago was formed to include most of the evangelical denominations, about 18 in all. Churches in Park Ridge affiliated with it are Methodist, Community, Baptist, and Presbyterian. The English Lutherans provide some cooperation, but they were not full members. The federation has a comity committee which must act before any of the constituent denominations may organize a new church. The federation has a department of religious education. It maintains chaplains in public institutions and sometimes speaks out on some legislation that affects public morals. So Park Ridge has been affected in its church life by this Chicagoland organization.

The organization of a Christian Science Church here was effected in 1902 with twelve members. Friends of the faith had been meeting earlier. A New England type of meeting house was erected in 1902, which burned down in 1910. In 1912 a lot was purchased on Northwest Highway, which provided space for a building that would seat 350 people. In 1952 a larger and more commodious structure was erected just east of the Methodist Church on Touhy Avenue.

As most people know, this church has a Sunday morning service and a Wednesday evening prayer meeting. It has no clergy, but each year selects a man and a woman to conduct Sunday worship. These are called "readers." They have good music to adorn the service. On Wednesday evenings in free fashion, people bear witness to benefits which they have secured through their religion. They conduct a reading room and bring lecturers to town.

Park Ridge has several "fundamentalist" churches of relatively recent origins. The largest and most active is that on Prospect street south of Devon. It is called South Church. They are revivalistic, and have a number of activities for youth.

The Presbyterians are a young group here, but have already made an established place in the community. They are located at Lincoln and Crescent.

The most recent comer of the comity churches is the Baptist Church, which still meets in a schoolhouse but is now erecting a sanctuary. Many of its members came here from the North Shore Baptist Church. Adding the Baptists together, they are the largest protestant

group in America, larger than the Methodists, but they are in two great groups. The University of Chicago gives them prestige. They have produced such eminent preachers as Harry Emerson Fosdick, and in their ranks are some of the great theologians of the country. The coming of this new church will mean that a lot of Park Ridge people will no longer attend church in Chicago.

One may look back over the history of our city and note that the churches have had unusually cordial relations with each other. There are reasons why in many projects they cannot cooperate, but they live together in dignity and mutual respect.

Chapter 56

Our Play Life Is Organized

FROM THE day when three boys of our leading families were thrown into the village bastille for swimming raw in the town clay pit until now, when we have ninety-three acres devoted to parks and recreation, is a long stretch. Perhaps our first park was Hodges Park, donated to the city by Leonard Hodges when in 1876 he gave the Congregational Church its triangle. For many years Hodges Park had a sign, "Keep off the grass." It was decorative and had nothing to do with recreation. The little park at Cumberland and Garden streets became public property at a time in a way that we have not yet discovered.

The founders of the Country Club once operated a tennis club at Cumberland and Devon, where we now have a public park. It was a slow evolution for the community to recognize the value of recreation. Cabot has written a book called "What Men Live By." His four vital things are work, play, love, and religion. A French priest, Dinmet, has a similar title to his book, but he adds to his list, besides the four activities listed above, two more. They are learning and the quest of beauty.

The first directed play in Park Ridge was baseball, as we have already noted. This has been a continuing interest, with various age groups using the facilities of Hinkley Park, where grandstands have been erected. For many years there have been swimming pools under trained direction. In more recent years the facilities of Maine Township High School have made it possible for children to learn swimming in the winter. The cooperation of the park board and the public school board has been to the advantage of the taxpayer in many ways. The public school playgrounds are used a great deal at times when the public school is not using them.

The development of various types of activity under the park board does not need to be dated to be appreciated and understood. Various crafts are taught under park board supervision. Women have classes in millinery. There are also classes for learning to make draperies and slip covers.

In the wintertime some of the parks have been flooded and ice skating has been encouraged. Fees have been charged for some of the activities, which led to some criticism, but the citizens have been reminded that supervision is an expense that must be met, and without these fees many from outside the Park Ridge district would overcrowd the facilities.

Roller skating is encouraged, and there is cooperation between the school board and park board in this activity. There is a hill for sledding during the snow season, and supervision that guarantees orderly play.

There are twenty-three tennis courts in the Park Ridge district. Free tennis lessons are given during the summer months. These tennis courts are located in Hinkley Field, Lincoln School, Northeast Park, South Park, and Southwest Park.

Golf is not neglected, and there is now a pitch and putt court in the Northeast Park. Girls play in most of these activities, and they have a softball league with groups for girls from the fifth grade to the eighth. They have their allotment of time and space for swimming.

The social rooms of the West Park Field House are rented out to some local clubs, and the facilities are therefore making contribution to adult education and neighborliness. One hears of wedding receptions in the buildings controlled by the board, and such affairs as golden weddings. As the number of civic organizations continues to increase, the need for meeting places for groups of less than a hundred becomes greater all the time.

The Park Ridge District was created in 1914 under the Submerged Land Park District Act. It is now under the Illinois District Code and is a separate governing and taxing body, no longer under city hall rule. It has five commissioners, who serve six years each. The election is held on the off year, and candidates may not run under any political name. The commissioners elect a secretary attorney, a treasurer, a superintendent, and a recreational director. As this is written, the commissioners are Herbert Anderson, also president; F. Raymond Bowen; Andrew J. Boylan; Robert T. Lockhart; and Sam C. Marzulo. The treasurer is Earnest K. Jordan, a C.P.A.; the attorney, Norman L. Olson; the superintendent, Edwin J. Vaughan; and the recreational director, O. K. Wilson.

During the long years of the development of this park board, it has had some very devoted personalities. William W. Hinkley was president of the board for a quarter of a century. He died at age 97, and went to the city to business every day until a few weeks before his passing. In his honor, Hinkley Park was named. Frank Rehder had a long period of service, as has Sam C. Marzulo. In a half century, these other citizens have served on the board: W. E. Cornelius, Irving Gillick, Roy C. McWhirter, Henry F. Hartman, Maurice Saunders, William Arthur Jackson, William Anderson, Paul Teeman, F. Raymond Bowen, John R. Sebastian, Robert Pipes, Charles Thorp, and Adolph Behrends. All of these but three are still living.

O. K. Wilson has won the affection and confidence of the community for a service which has now run through many years. The range of his activity may be seen by his report on the summer of 1959, when a grand total of spectators and participants who were interested in the park board activities was 243,677. This is only a summer report on activities.

The nearby forest preserve is outside of Park Ridge, but the city touches the borders of it from Higgins to Dempster. It does not have directed recreation, but it has been used by our citizens a great deal during the years. It was back in the twenties when this land was acquired which was to make Chicagoland unique among the cities of the

world for its park facilities. The forest preserve was acquired by Cook county and is administered by its board. It is about forty miles long.

There was grumbling when the land was acquired, for some citizens, knowing what was in the wind, bought pieces of property and sold them to the county at a tidy profit. One of our local grumblers asserted that people like that should be satisfied with "reasonable graft." When asked what he thought reasonable graft should amount to, he said, "about ten per cent."

The number of citizens who do not play either at home or at public places constitutes one of our modern problems. From this group come those whose tensions lead to heart collapse and to mental breakdown. Along with all the public facilities the community needs a constant preachment on the value of play, such as Dr. Cabot gives in his book.

Chapter 57

Two Years of Rapid Change

DURING 1959 and 1960 so many changes occurred in Park Ridge that they deserve a separate chapter. If we were to select the most important thing that happened in the period, perhaps it would be the opening of Lutheran General Hospital in January, 1960. Heart cases will now be within two miles of expert help, as well as other emergency cases. The goal of the hospital to raise $1,250,000 was reached before construction began. The ultimate goal is $7,600,000. A school for nurses was moved from the city, and a corps of volunteer helpers was enlisted. The engineering of the building is so well planned that the workers can get their tasks done with the least possible exertion. The equipment is of the finest. It was not long until the obstetrical department was very busy.

About this time, the Lutherans opened a home for the aged in Park Ridge. This, with their long established children's home on Canfield road, makes this city much in the debt of the Lutherans.

The opening of our new hotel, the Park Ridge Inn, was also an event of great importance. Fifty years ago we had a hotel, but it was never anything like this. The rooms are in many cases equipped for couples who may want to do some cooking in them. These would make ideal quarters for aged couples who might choose to eat a meal a day in the excellent dining room. Under the hotel is parking space for many cars. Already people from O'Hare Airport use these quarters a good deal.

The development of office buildings for a number of firms on the land once occupied by the Catholic convent on South Northwest Highway brings to Park Ridge a great many executives and office workers. These buildings assume their share of the tax load of the community.

It is in this period that Park Ridge got a new bank located on the south side at Talcott and Prospect. It is now a national bank. Prominent among the promoters of the bank have been William Cornelius, vice president of the Sunbeam corporation, and Herbert Anderson.

The enormous growth of high school enrollment compelled the erection of a new building in southwest Des Plaines, which was opened for use in 1959. The two schools, Maine East and Maine West have a total enrollment this year of over five thousand.

It is thought that a third plant will be needed in 1964, and land has been secured at Talcott and Dee roads, near the Maine Township Cemetery. A survey of the high schools of the nation shows Maine to be among the forty-four best high schools. Many of their students have won scholarships and honors.

The continued growth of Maine Evening School has made it one of the outstanding institutions of its kind in the country, the enrollment being between two and three thousand each semester. There is a series of travel talks each winter that fills the auditorium to capacity, and the Community Concert organization makes Maine a great musical center.

Church changes in this period have been particularly rapid. A second Methodist Church was approved by the Church Federation of Greater Chicago and the Good Shepherd Methodist Church is now operating in a schoolhouse, pending the erection of a new building. The Baptists, also cooperating with the Church Federation, have succeeded so well that they are now erecting a new sanctuary on the Northwest highway.

A big development has been in the growth of a new Catholic church on the south side, Mary Seat of Wisdom. It has on its rolls 1500 families. Father Dowling was moved from St. Paul-of-the-Cross Church and is now the pastor.

The erection of a new Presbyterian sanctuary by the side of their educational building will give this denomination a seating capacity of 550 people. The educational equipment will care for 225 students. It is expected to finish this construction in 1961.

The erection of a new railway station in Park Ridge was accomplished by the cooperation of the Northwestern Railroad and our city leaders. We had a voice in the selection of the architecture, so we now have the most attractive railway station on this branch of the road. At the same time the old railroad coaches are being retired, the last ones to go in 1961. The new coaches are double-deckers, warm and clean. They have diesel engines for power, so the arrival and departure of trains is now a quieter and cleaner process. Mayor Hollis has given good leadership in the erection of the new station.

Not less important has been the opening of the new freeway between Chicago and O'Hare. Park Ridge enters this at Higgins and Cumberland. An example of what this means may be illustrated with a recent experience. The car in which we were riding passed the Northwestern station in Chicago at 10 o'clock at night, and at exactly that hour a train was due to leave for Park Ridge. The train was due to arrive in Park Ridge at 10:35. The automobile in which we were riding carefully observed the speed laws and arrived in front of our home at 10:20. In view of the large number of men who drive to work, this is important. However, a new problem arises, and that is parking space for the greatly increased number of cars that arrive in the loop.

The summer of 1960, the city celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of city government. A committee got up a great banquet. A secret committee had selected fifteen citizens to be given special citations for service to the city in the past fifty years. Those honored were Dr. T. E. Conley, surgeon and promoter of civic projects; George L. Scharringhausen, Sr., pharmacist, philanthropist, and friend of religion; Fred I. Gillick, real estate developer and businessman of high integrity; Dr. Walter D. Spangler, 45 years in service here and pastor of unusual devotion to duty; W. W. Hinkley, for whom a park was named, who served the Park Board for 25 years, a man of long life

that continued in usefulness; Paul O. Fisher, chairman of Park Ridge Zoning Board of Appeals for many years; Max A. Holub, honored for his many services to youth and for his high business integrity; Esther Ward, town hostess for the Chamber of Commerce for many years, who has had a vital concern for our residents here; Norman A. Brown, fire chief of Park Ridge, who has helped make our public buildings safe; Rev. John Hubbard, pastor of St. Mary's Episcopal church, head of our cancer drives, and civic-minded clergyman; Dr. Richard L. Marks, a pediatrician who has helped several hospitals but in particular recently secured $5,000 for Children's Memorial Hospital; George L. Scharringhausen, Jr., pharmacist with the largest drug business on the northwest side, who continues the fine ideals of his father and is very active in civic projects; Father Francis M. C. Smith, until deceased in 1956 very active in the promotion of his religion and pastor of one of the largest Catholic churches on the Northwest side; Clifford H. Sweat, principal of Lincoln Junior high school and known in the educational world as a man of large ability; Rev. Orvis F. Jordan, for 35 years pastor of Park Ridge Community church, for twenty-two years on the library board, most of the time as president, student of community development and journalist. Plaques were presented to these witnessing to the esteem of their community.

Chapter 57 and preceding chapters were written in 1959, but this chapter was written early in 1961. As a last addendum to this volume we quote from a July issue of the Park Ridge Advocate the following figures: the assessed valuation of Park Ridge in 1950 was 57 million, and in 1960, 126 million; the population in 1950 was 16,510, and in 1960 33,000; the median value of new homes built in 1950 was $18,500, while in 1960 it was $31,000; the average family income in 1950 was $7,806, but in 1960 $9,625; number of businesses in 1950 was 71, but in 1960, 225.

Chapter 58

What Will Our City Become?

MORE THAN a hundred years ago the people of our community first heard a railroad whistle. Had they been asked then to predict the future of the little community, they would not have been able. Who could have imagined then electric light and power, the telephone, the automobile, radio, television, jet planes, or the atomic bomb? Who could have foreseen the almost miraculous growth of Chicago and its impact upon our community?

Yet the people that lived here did have a hand in shaping the character of this community. Law and order was established early. Our forefathers chose the better things. They were neighborly; they shared their books; they soon began to cultivate beauty; they learned to accept heavy burdens so that their schools and playgrounds and library might serve youth adequately. Great sanctuaries in honor of religion were erected. Adult education through church and community agenices produced an unusually intelligent citizenship.

Now we try to look into the crystal ball to see what will happen to us in the next hundred years. We cannot even imagine what science and invention will do. Perhaps our nation has only begun its development here.

We ask how big will Park Ridge become? Population experts set a figure of 45,000. What will be the character of the new people who will move in here? We live within two miles of the borders of the largest Polish city in all the world. Will this great city spill over into us? Up to now it has been by-passing us for the most part.

We ask, "What will O'Hare Airport do to us when it gets into full operation?" It already causes some people to move, for they do not like the noise of the planes. Some fear the proximity of both O'Hare and Glenview, for we would be right between two important targets in case of war. Where will the personnel of O'Hare live in days to come? Doubtless many will settle in Elk Grove Village. But much of this personnel will be able to accept our higher taxes and will want to so that their children may have the things that these taxes buy. The men that work in the airport industries will be a somewhat different breed than those white-collared salesmen and executives that make up such a large proportion of our present population.

The present Park Ridge is the home of the middle aged. Those of the later years, who now number about three thousand, would prefer to finish out here among their old friends, but when they can no longer push a lawn mower or shovel snow, they reluctantly seek a home in Florida or Arizona. Will we take advantage of federal laws that favor

the erection of housing for the aged so that those who finish out on social security can make ends meet? Will the more affluent among the aged live in residential hotels yet to be erected, where they can eat out when they do not want to cook?

Our young people also leave town after marriage, even if they are employed in Chicago. This is largely a matter of housing. After they leave a Chicago apartment when the baby gets big enough to fall out of the upstairs window, they go to some new little suburb where housing is cheap, even though the young father spends two or three hours of his day in transportation. Could anything be done about this, or is Park Ridge to be the home of the middle aged only, with little sense of community history?

One wonders about the transportation of the future. Our railroad is in the process of greatly improving its service and with higher fares it is still much cheaper transportation than that which a man in his own car secures. Or will the future bring helicopter commuting to the city? Or will the big city decentralize its business, just as it is now decentralizing its merchandising? The effect of all this on the family of the future will be very important.

Will there be as many mothers employed as now are? Will there be more and more day nurseries so that the child will grow up with less and less of the parents' time and influence? Young mothers who do not get employment complain of getting "stir crazy." To be shut up all week with a brood of little children while the father is out on the road presents a real problem. Will we have more and more baby-sitters? Or will there be more and more baby-sitting cooperatives?

What is going to happen to the churches? Will they become more and more like social settlements, accepting many chores of life that hardly belong to a religious institution? Or will they be small and select high-browish institutions that engage in weekly discussions in the realm of metaphysics? Will Christian sects practice brotherhood even when they cannot accept each others' doctrinal ideas? Through the ages the churches have changed to meet changing conditions. What a changing society in the next hundred years will do to these churches can hardly be imagined. Will some of our noble edifices become "old-fashioned," and then be destroyed or will Park Ridge preserve a worthy piece of religious architecture as most European cities have done?

It is easy to foresee a worthy city hall on the beautiful grounds we have for such a structure. But what about the operations of the city? We have many operations now that some people would call socialistic. Some cities let private companies supply water and collect garbage. Make a list of the things we do through our city. Through the past hundred years there has been a growth of these community operations. Will the growth continue? One of our city managers said we would do the things as a city that we can do best that way, and leave the rest to private enterprise. Do we know when community enterprise is not the best way?

The soul of a community is a very important thing. A city may be great without being large. Oxford and Oberammergau are examples of this. Paul said, "I am a citizen of no mean city." The reason he

1777